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Gareth Jamieson reviews 'Carol' Page 23

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COPING WITH BEREAVEMENT Pages 19 to 22

# The end of an era

## POPULAR TOWN CLERK RETIRES AFTER 17 YEARS

**COWBRIDGE'S town clerk, Andrew Davies, has retired and Coun David W Morris, the Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, has paid the following tribute:**

*David B Morris, Coun David W Morris, and Andrew Davies.*

*Many people may not be aware that Andrew Davies, the Town Clerk of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, retired on November 30, bringing to a close 17 years of dedicated service, not only to the council, but to the community as a whole.*

*I am sure that although he has retired, his legacy will remain with us for many years to come, especially in regards to the manner in which he organised such events as the Mayor Making, Civic Sunday and Remembrance Sunday, all of which are held in high regard, not only in the Vale, but further afield.*

*He will also be remembered for his no-nonsense approach to resolving any problems or challenges. This will be sorely missed by all, in particular by those of us who have had the privilege of being Mayor during his time as town clerk.*

*I am sure that not only my fellow councillors, but all those who have come into contact with Andrew over the past 17 years, will join with me in wishing him a long and happy retirement.*

*I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome our new town clerk, Mr David B Morris. You will notice I have include his middle initial in an attempt to save any confusion with my own name which is the same, but has a middle initial of W.*

*David comes from a long and distinguished career in the Police Force. He began his career as a police cadet in London, and through a series of many promotions, moved up through the ranks to become Assistant Chief Constable of the South Wales Police Service; before moving on to become the Police Commissioner of the British Virgin Islands in the Caribbean, until his retirement earlier this year, when he returned to Cowbridge.*

*Welcome David, and may your role as town clerk be a long and happy one.*

# Reindeer Parade defied the elements

## – *but needs a sponsor to 'stay strong' for next year*

**THE many volunteers who pulled together to make this year's Cowbridge Reindeer Parade a success have been thanked for their efforts on a day of "atrocious weather".**

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

Alun John, the chairman of the Cowbridge Chamber of Trade, told The GEM that between 10,000 and 15,000 visitors had come to the town – despite cloudy skies that were constantly threatening rain.

However, he warned that the charity event needs more support next year – either by attracting a major sponsor, or through more local businesses joining the chamber of trade.

He said: "It is important to thank all the people who gave up their time to make the day a success.

"Once again, we are grateful to Rhodri and Lucy Owen from the BBC, and Ruth Wignall from ITV, who came along with her fellow Nation Radio breakfast show host, Niall Foster.

"Our thanks go to everyone who joined the Nativity Parade, and all the Elves who worked so hard during the day.

"JPL Sound did a great job with the PA system under difficult conditions, enabling us to have live music through the afternoon.

"The Police helped everything go smoothly, and once agin we were grateful the Penllyne Estates and Cowbridge Comprehensive School for helping ease the car parking burden."

He continued: "Santa, as ever, was great with the children, and the support of the Lions and Rotary clubs was very much appreciated. Also, we had donations from the Co-op and Tesco, which were a great help."

He said that the event had never been in doubt, despite the grim weather forecast. It had been regrettable that the farmers' market had to be called off, and the combination of wind and rain late in the day had made the Christmas lights switch-on impossible, as the electrics were getting too wet.

Mr John emphasised that all the money collected on the day went to local charities – distributed by the Lions' Club. None of the money goes to fund the running of the event.

He said: "I think everyone had an enjoyable day, despite the atrocious weather."

The costs of the day, he said, had been shared between the chamber of trade and the Vale Council, while estate agents PA Black had sponsored the crowd barriers.

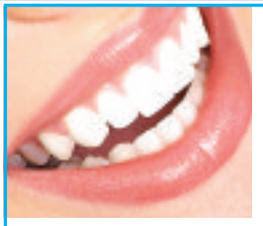
Mr John said: "We have started planning next year's event, and it is clear that it could be in jeopardy, unless more businesses in the town join the chamber of trade to spread the cost. A main sponsor coming forward would make a big difference as well."

He concluded: "I would also like to pay a special tribute to Andrew Davies, the town clerk, who has retired after 17 years in the post.

"He has always been such a great help over those 17 years – not just at reindeer parade time, but throughout the year.

"Everyone in the chamber of trade, I am sure, will join me in wishing him a very happy retirement."

*The Cowbridge Chamber of Trade is holding a social evening next Tuesday, December 15, at 6pm in the Bear Hotel. Existing and prospective new members will be welcome*



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We will (*in certain circumstances*) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

## 'Cardiff is best bet for merger'

**SOME Vale of Glamorgan councillors have recently commented on the Welsh Government's proposals to merge councils in Wales and reduce their number to either eight or nine.**

The leader, Coun Moore, believes the council should be left alone because of a perceived status as the best authority.

I disagree, but even if he was correct, the changes are not a beauty contest, but more about delivering better and more efficient services for the whole of Wales.

Recently in the local press, Couns Mahoney and Clarke have taken a different position, supporting the need to reduce the number of councils, despite all the scare stories from many other Vale councillors.

I support the need to reduce the number of councils and the 1,254 councillors.

We have far too many elected representatives in Wales compared with other parts of the UK. Scotland, with almost double the population, has fewer councillors than Wales.

Cardiff has almost twice as many constituents as the Vale. If we are to merge, surely Cardiff would be the best bet?

Ignore the clear self-interest of the political parties, the scare stories, and your view of the capability of politicians on both councils, and then take a hard look at the realities.

We have a dynamic capital city on our doorstep, bursting with economic activity; it has first class facilities in terms of shopping, amenities and leisure, and the employment opportunities for our community are significant.

Personalities will change on a new merged council and the number of councillors should fall from a combined 122 to 75 – that's about a £1m saving each year on councillors' payments alone.

A measure of our commonality with Cardiff is the number of people travelling to Cardiff every day: 20,500 daily commutes from the Vale.

And oh, by the way, the Minister, Leighton Andrews, believes Wales can save £650m over 10 years!

**Dennis Harkus,**
FocusBARRY member.

## Syria: 'lessons have still not been learned'

**OUR representative in the House of Commons voted in favour of air strikes against ISIS/Daesh in Syria.**

Strong opposition to the air strikes from the Syrian community in the UK, trapped residents in Al-Raqqa and even the Free Syrian Army – who are supposed to make up most of David Cameron's fantasy of 70,000 "moderate" troops on the ground – was ignored.

Bashar Al-Assad, who is responsible for the deaths of thousands of people, is mocking our foolishness. Bombing campaigns have repeatedly failed to achieve their objectives.

The lessons from World War Two and other conflicts have not been learned. An ideology, or feelings of injustice, cannot be killed with bombs.

ISIS are amongst the few winners from this decision. They've been awarded news headlines around the world, without the need to commit another atrocity.

The cycle of violence cannot be stopped with more violence, pain and killing. More violence will influence others to commit violent acts.

The other winners are those in the UK who enjoy reading about the weapons technology that the UK will deploy– while feeling very patriotic – and the arms manufacturers.

Our Government has failed to set out a vision for Syria when the fighting stops – or explain how the different groups, including the Kurds, will be included in negotiations.

**Ian Perry,**
**Cardiff.**

## 'Why no festive lights for Rhoose?'

**HOW nice it is to see all the reports in The GEM about Christmas light switch-ons – though it rubs salt in the wounds of Rhoose villagers.**

A few months ago, we were promised our first-ever display of Christmas lights, but in the next breath we were told this wouldn't go ahead due to the high cost of health and safety management issues, unless we all wanted to foot the bill.

I'm sure I'm not on my own in asking what our council tax is being used for? Especially when you take into account that the small extras that used to be provided by the council, ie black bags, weekly rubbish collections, food bags, free trailer passes to use the nearest utilities site, and even general advice, all have to be paid for.

I don't remember being asked if I wanted our street lighting to be turned off for six hours a night, and do we really need all of those cycle lanes, especially as most cyclists have an aversion to them, anyway?

I must have missed the ballot to ask the public's opinion on giving the Syrian refugees £100,000 of taxpayers' money. It's maybe a worthy cause, but most people like to have a say about which charitable organisations they donate to.

We will also have 11,000 new-build houses thrust on us in the Vale; the Rhoose Point development is becoming so huge that as well losing its identity as a village, Rhoose will join on to Barry, thus losing the green space boundary. Of course, there are no plans to help with the general road infrastructure which consists of one main road leading through the village.

So my last question is, if Rhoose has to endure some of the trappings of small town status, why is it not appropriate to give us some niceties like Christmas lights – especially when places like Penarth, Barry, and Cowbridge have had them every year, and Cowbridge still refuses to have any new-builds 'in their back garden'.

***(Name and address supplied).***

## Hospital parking

**HOW much longer will we be able to park without charge when attending hospitals? This highly successful policy seems to be at risk following the rejection in England of allowing free parking for carers when taking patients for treatment.**

This did not include all people visiting, or ordinary patients attending hospital. It simply related to carers taking patients.

With the worry and stress associated with hospital attendance, at least the financial burden can be lifted in this small but welcome way. If such limited concessions were rejected by the UK Government in England, logically, free parking at Welsh hospitals will be undermined if ever the Conservatives get any serious influence in the Welsh Assembly.

All too often, the MP complains about what councils or the Assembly are doing. He rarely faces up to the actions of the UK Government of which he is a Minister.

It might be appropriate for him to concentrate more on his job.

**Nic Hodges, Barry**
*Plaid Cymru councillor,*

## *When will we ever learn?*

**WHY did Mr Cameron use a three-line Whip to bully Conservative MPs on what many said was a matter of personal conscience?**

Was it the ridiculous claim of 70,000 local troops; the claim that we had unique targeted missiles (no other nation has chosen them); or the unproven claim that we had thwarted seven terrorist threats (ISIL?)

We were already part of the coalition forces bombing Iraq, so why go into Syria? The Americans and others admit they have too many missiles chasing too few targets.

The prime minister wanted to play with the big boys; let's see how he now deals with the inevitable consequences.

I for one felt less secure in the UK the night Parliament voted and the bombers rushed in within two hours.

ISIL have sucked us in to war and will feel free to attack. When will we ever learn?

**Steve Reed,**
**Rhoose.**

## *'Where are tree lights?'*

**WHAT has happened to the fairy lights on the Christmas trees through Cowbridge High Street?**

Driving home about 8pm on Wednesday, December 2, I counted 23 trees not lit up. Every year the number increases. It is a shame the time and effort to put the trees up ends up with the majority unlit.

Where is the Christmas spirit? Are the lights faulty or do businesses feel they can't afford to switch them on?

Many years ago, it was a delight to drive down from the traffic lights into the town and admire them. Now it looks like a sad reflection of things to come.

**Mrs V Morris,**
**Cowbridge.**

## New party aims to scrap Assembly

**SO now tax raising powers will be devolved to the Welsh Assembly – I think the Welsh people will come to bitterly regret this.**

During the 2011 referendum for 'More Powers to the Welsh Assembly', the 'Yes' campaign promised over and over again that this would NOT happen.

Well, it has, and this 'bit by bit' strategy will undoubtedly continue.

The fact that we are lumbered with yet another layer of unnecessary politicians at vast expense is bad enough. The steady process of loosening our ties to the United Kingdom will be far more damaging and needs to be stopped urgently.

Those of your readers who feel this danger now have a chance to make their voices heard. A new political party has been formed and will be standing candidates in next year's Welsh Assembly elections.

This party's aim is to abolish the Assembly; no more, no less.

**David Bevan,**
*Chairman,*
*Abolish The Welsh Assembly Party,*
*Groes Faen.*

## 'Praise young stars in the making'

**ON behalf of the Friends and Neighbours Senior Citizen Group, I would like to take the opportunity of thanking some 180 students of Superstars in The Making for their excellent 'Winter Showcase' at Barry Memorial Hall.**

The show was immensely enjoyed by all and it was great to see many of the members singing along to the old melodies.

Without a doubt, Baby Stars and Twinkles Stars stole the hearts of many and it was amazing to see such little ones have their first time on a stage.

The confidence and dedication of the students of Budding Star, Rising Stars and the MTP class, was obvious.

It was great to see it so well supported, with 1,000 people filling the hall and a standing ovation at the end was very well deserved.

*Well done to all!*

**Gay Fifield,**
*Co-ordinator, Friends and Neighbours.*

### HIGH TIDE TIMES
**(UNTIL DECEMBER 17)**

***The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.***

| DATE | Time AM | Ht M | Time PM | Ht M |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10 Thur | 05.31 | 9.3 | 17.47 | 9.3 |
| 11 Fri | 06.09 | 9.5 | 18.24 | 9.7 |
| 12 Sat | 06.44 | 9.8 | 19.06 | 9.8 |
| 13 Sun | 07.22 | 9.9 | 19.44 | 9.8 |
| 14 Mon | 07.59 | 9.8 | 20.21 | 9.7 |
| 15 Tues | 08.42 | 9.7 | 21.04 | 9.5 |
| 16 Wed | 09.28 | 9.4 | 21.51 | 9.2 |
| 17 Thur | 10.14 | 9.2 | 22.41 | 8.8 |

***While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.***

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# Male voice choir lights up Holy Cross

*Musical director Shelley Thomas-Brown.*

**ANOTHER year has rolled by and we know that Christmas isn't too far away as the choir commenced the Christmas season with the annual Christmas Tree Festival Gala Concert at Holy Cross Church in Cowbridge.**

Once again the array of Christmas trees adorning the church was wonderful – in fact they surpassed previous arrangements.

The opening was the carol 'It came upon the midnight clear' sung by all present.

The choir then commenced their performance under the baton of their musical director – Shelley Thomas-Brown with Sandra Williams accompanying opening with 'I Bob Un Sydd Ffyddion' , 'The Water is Wide', 'You are so Beautiful to Me' and the lovely hymn 'Nazareth'.

The audience was then treated to the warmth and beautiful voice of Elinor Parsons who sang 'Madonna and Child', 'Rocking Around the Clock', 'Christmas Tree' and 'Sonntag'.

It was a delight to hear that wonderful youthful, yet mature tone in her voice.

The choir concluded the first part of the concert with 'Cavatina' from the musical score of the film *The Deer Hunter* continuing with 'Bohemian Rhapsody' , 'My Lord, What a Morning' and that famous Welsh hymn 'Tydi a Roddaist' with those resounding Amens.

The carol 'Good King Wenceslas' was sung with gusto with audience and choir concluding the first half.

The second half of the concert commenced with audience and choir singing the carol 'As with Gladness, Men of Old, Did the Guiding Star Behold'.

The choir then continued with their renditions of 'O Gymru', 'I Believe', 'Calm is the Sea', 'The Rose', 'Angels' (just for the Robbie Williams fans!), 'Cavalry of the Steppes', 'St Clement', generally known by 'The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, is Ended'.

The choir's finale was their take on 'The Beatles' by singing a medley of their truly remarkable talent with some audience participation! The carol 'Come Sing the Christmas Story' sung to the tune of 'Ar Hyd a Nos' ended a truly wonderful concert appreciated by all.

*It was a night to remember indeed!* KM

*ABOVE: Soloist Elinor Parsons.*

*The choir in full flow.*

# LET THERE BE LIGHT(s)!

*ABOVE: Billy James, Jackie Griffin and Andrew Davies (right) are well away from the crowds as they switch on the lights!*
*Photo by Mike Wilcock*

**THE day of Cowbridge's Reindeer Parade was marred by bad weather, and the conditions deteriorated as the day wore on.**

It meant that the annual switching on of the Christmas lights did not take place, but council staff made sure that the lights were on for any passers-by on Sunday evening.

GEM photographer Mike Wilcock was there to see town clerk Andrew Davies, accompanied by Jackie Griffin and Billy James, flick the switch.

In fact, it was probably Mr Davies' last official action as town clerk, as he retires very soon – *see Page 1*.

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# Mum of two wins power-lifting medals

## – AND SHE ONLY STARTED THE SPORT THIS YEAR!

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**by GEM REPORTER**

**A mother of two from Llantwit Major who only began weight lifting this year has won medals at the Commonwealth Powerlifting Competition in Canada.**

At the beginning of this year, Tracy O'Callaghan would never have dreamed of being an international, but she discovered she had secret strength!

She has now returned from competing for Wales in the Commonwealth Powerlifting Competition in Vancouver where she won three bronze medals and a silver medal.

Tracy (37), who has run the local MoD nursery for 15 years, explained: "I am very new to powerlifting and only began in February this year after completing a female lifting course at Force Strength and Conditioning gym at Llandow.

"I joined the 'female force course' at the gym because I had been suffering with a painful back for many years and wanted to strengthen it.

"I had no idea that I was so strong and had never heard of powerlifting, which consists of three lifts – squat, bench and deadlift."

Tracy pulled out of her first competitive event due to nerves. "I finally turned up to a competition in February this year although up until the night before I wanted to pull out because nerves were getting the better of me – but I acquired two Welsh records, one in deadlift and one in 'overall total'.

"I was then asked to compete in a Wales versus the South West competition. Then in September, I was asked to compete in the Four Nations in Newcastle.

"Following that, I was asked to represent Wales in Vancouver. I was blown away and couldn't believe how privileged I was.

"Through the support and extreme generosity of my friends, family, Coun Gwyn John, Pier Consulting Ltd, the local Lions, St Athan Thrift Shop and a fundraiser at Force Strength and Conditioning, I was able to fund the trip. The support from the local community and my nearest and dearest has been outstanding."

Tracy won't be overdoing the Christmas pud this festive season because in February she plans to take part in the Welsh Cup.

*Tracy O'Callaghan (extreme right) with fellow Welsh team members in Vancouver.*

# COWBRIDGE FRIENDSHIP CLUB NEWS ROUND-UP

**AT our November meeting, there was no quiz to sort out, no speaker or craft to do, but members all sat back and enjoyed an afternoon of music supplied by The Old Spice Barber Shop Quartet.**

**Everyone agreed it was a very enjoyable afternoon and a lovely start to the festive season.**

**Then everyone sat down to afternoon tea and cakes including the Quartet who deserved a refreshing drink.**

**There will be no meeting in December, but members were invited to a Christmas party run by the Age Connect's Good Neighbour Scheme in Llantwit Major.**

**Our next meeting in 2016 will be on Thursday, January 28.**

**We always have a variety of activities at our meetings, so if you, or anyone you know, would like to join our Friendship Club where transport is provided, telephone 01656 668446.**

**PAT SMITH**

# YFC's top speakers

**WICK YFC junior members took part in the Glamorgan county public speaking competition on Sunday, December 6, winning first place. Isobel Smith will go forward for Wales as chairperson and Megan Davies as reserve speaker.**

# Ysgol Llanhari's Back to the Eighties show voted a 'resounding success!'

**THE school hall at Ysgol Llanhari was swinging to the sounds of the 80s for three evenings at the end of November as parents, families and friends came to see a colourful and vibrant production of the show *Nôl I'r 80au* (*Back to the Eighties*).**

It was a resounding success and a significant event for the school, as this was the first production since becoming an ages 3 – 19 school. It was a pleasure to see years 2 and 3 pupils sharing a stage with pupils from year-13.

Thank you to Miss Angharad Rees-Jones and Mr Cai Hywel for their tireless efforts and to all staff and pupils who ensured that the show was a fantastic success.

We obviously have an army of talented pupils at Ysgol Llanhari and they most definitely deserve to be praised for their fabulous performances.

**MT**

## *Llwyddiant ysgubol Nôl i'r 80au*

***ROEDD Neuadd yr ysgol yn orlawn ar dair noson yn ystod mis Tachwedd wrth i lu o gefnogwyr dyrru i'r ysgol i weld tri pherfformiad gwefreiddiol llawn lliw a bwrlwm gan ddisgyblion Ysgol Llanhari o'r sioe gerdd Nôl i'r Wythdegau.***

*Bu'n llwyddiant ysgubol ac yn ddigwyddiad arwyddocaol iawn gan mai dyma ein sioe gyntaf fel ysgol 3-19 a hyfryd oedd gweld plant blwyddyn 2 a 3 yn rhannu llwyfan â disgyblion o flwyddyn 13.*

*Diolch yn fawr i Miss Angharad Rees-Jones a Mr Cai Hywel am eu harweiniad di-flino ac i'r holl staff a fu'n cyfrannu at lwyddiant y sioe.*

*Mae'n amlwg bod gennym lu o ddisgyblion talentog sy'n haeddu cryn glod am eu perfformiadau gwych!*

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## Leekes charity auction nets £1,000 windfall for the NSPCC

**A CHARITY auction held at Leekes Llantrisant raised over £1,000 for the NSPCC as part of its special Christmas shopping evening.**

**Hosted by popular TV presenter and antique dealer Paul Martin, the home department store was transformed into a live auction area, with customers bidding generously for a selection of items.**

**Top of the order of items going under the hammer was a Caple wine cabinet which sold for £105 and a sofa bed selling for an impressive £380.**

**Peter Mundell, store manager at Leekes Llantrisant said: "The turn-out has been fantastic and helped to create a great auction atmosphere in store.**

**"We're delighted that Paul Martin was able to attend the event and are thrilled to have raised over £1,000 for Leekes' nominated charity, the NSPCC."**

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Llantwit 01446 794972

North Road, Cowbridge 01446 774016

Poundfield, Llantwit Major 01446 794972

# Rhys wins 'instrumental' round of Rotary annual Young Musician Competition...

*ABOVE: First prize winner, Rhys Richards.*

**THE instrumentalist round of the annual Rotary Young Musician Competition took place in Cowbridge School hall on the evening of Wednesday, December 2.**

This was the area final which had eight competitors sponsored variously by the Rotary clubs of Llantwit Major, Cowbridge and Neath.

As usual the event proved to be an excellent showcase of young musical talent. Competitors played two contrasting pieces, taking no longer than 10 minutes.

Third prize winner was harpist Linnea Stelund Roderick from Cowbridge School who played *Impromptu Caprice* by Gabriel Pierné, followed by the *Étude no 1* by Bach.

Second prize was awarded to flautist Emily Jenkins, a student at Cowbridge School who played *Allegro non Troppo* followed by Poulenc's *Cantilena*.

The judges were unanimous in awarding first place to pianist Rhys Richards from Llantwit Major School, who played his two pieces with consummate skill and artistry.

He began with a piece by Chinese composer Mingxin Du called *Shui Cao Wu* or *Dance of the Waterweeds,* in English.

This was followed by Rhys's own composition *Vagues,* or *Waves* in English.

Rhys will go on to take part in the district final of the Young Musician competition which will be held in Cowbridge School on Saturday, February 27. He will be joined by the winner of the previous week's Young Vocalist competition, Charlotte Bonney.

The judging panel was made up of Antony Tarlton, a retired principal player with the orchestra of Welsh National Opera; Mary Noyes, music teacher and retired head of Llangan School, and Nic Treharne, a clarinettist, viola player and organist who after a career in music broadcasting is still active in playing music.

They offered valuable feedback to the contestants and were very complimentary about the standard of musicianship displayed by the contestants.

Dr David Rogers, president of Llantwit Major Rotary Club congratulated the contestants and praised Adrian Colborne, the head of the performing arts department of Cowbridge School, for his obvious enthusiasm and support of the students in his care.

He also expressed his gratitude to the judges in giving up their time and giving such encouragement to these excellent young musicians.

**TC**

***LEFT: Second prizewinner, Emily Jenkins.***

***RIGHT: Third prizewinner, Linnea Stelund Roderick.***

*The competitors.*

# YSTRADOWEN GETS IN THE FESTIVE SPIRIT...

## YSTRADOWEN WI NEWS

**OUR December meeting was very different from the usual pattern throughout the year.**

Jan Foyle opened proceedings to an almost full complement of members with the business of minutes, correspondence and future events.

Among these was a 'Clean for the Queen' campaign which asked us to litter pick in time for the Queen's 90th birthday next year, starting in March, and a 'Turn Valentine's Day Green' campaign by wearing a green heart on St Valentine's Day to show support in opposing climate change for the sake of future generations.

Business was followed by a delicious choice of refreshments with even more delicious mulled wine.

An entertainment by the committee followed, which can only be described as memorable – a blend of Cinderella, several fairies, Queen Victoria, someone called Albert, a very overdressed and confused 16-year-old princess, and other children's fairy story favourites.

The professional stage would have been proud of them, and we clapped like mad.

We were then treated to some solo Christmas hymns, and then the full company joined in a selection of Christmas carols with the marvellous keyboard accompaniment of Rosemary Ives.

A reminder to us all of those less fortunate than ourselves was the table at the end of the hall containing some 30 unwrapped adult gifts which will be taken to a women's sanctuary during December.

It only remains for the WI ladies of Ystradowen and District to wish GEM readers a very peaceful and happy Christmas and a prosperous 2016.

**GB**

# How a poem to welcome Ella Rhian touched the hearts of GEM readers

**by PHILIP IRWIN**

**GEM readers may have noticed a number of letters in last week's edition (December 3), commenting on how moved they were by a poem in the births' section of the newspaper on November 26.**

One reader was in tears after reading Brian Lewis' poem, written to welcome his first great-grand-daughter, Ella Rhian, into the world.

However, he chose to write on behalf of his wife, Betty, who has Alzheimer's, and who has been denied the delight of greeting Ella Rhian herself.

Mr Lewis lives in Llantwit Major and told The GEM: "Family and friends around the world have been deeply moved too. I didn't expect such a reaction when I wrote it, but it seems to have struck a chord."

Brian and Betty Lewis lived in London for 50 years, and moved to Llantwit three years ago to be near their family. That long and happy marriage produced two children, three grandchildren, and Ella Rhian is their first great-grandchild.

When Alzheimer's started to take hold of Betty, she and Brian were grateful to spend time with a support group that meets in Bethel Church.

Sadly, her condition deteriorated, and she now lives in Milsom House nursing home.

Brian said: "My wife's full name is Doris Elizabeth Frances, but to the family she has always been Betty. In Milson House, everyone knows her as Doris, because there were two Bettys there already."

He said that he started writing poems in the last 10 years, and that the 'easiest' to write were those when he was trying to express an emotion.

Brian said: "Betty loved children, and I started to think about how much Ella Rhian would have meant to her, and how much she would have looked forward to seeing her and holding her.

"When I decided to put it in a poem, it came out in a rush. I think it took only 10 minutes to get it down on paper."

## JUST FOR YOU

*Ella Rhian -*

*(born November 16, 2015)*

I'm sorry I'm unable to say what you mean to me,
But I suffer from Alzheimer's which stole my memory;
Of your parents and of you – I am pleased and so proud,
And if I could, I know I would shout it out so loud,
*For I am your great grandmother and I love you.*
I'd look forward to holding you and taking you for a walk,
I'd teach you lots of simple things, how to read – how to talk.
I'd love you when you're happy and also when you're sad,
I'd be there always for you – through times good and bad,
*For I am your great grandmother and I love you.*

I'd guide you through your early years, teach you right from wrong,
I'd nurse you when you're ill and comfort you with a song.
There are so many things I would want to share with you,
Easter egg hunt, Christmas and birthdays to mention but a few.
*For I am your great grandmother and I love you.*

So I leave you this poem, written by great grand-dad, but for me,
It reflects my love and pleasure for the new leaf on our tree.Enjoy your life my darling and always try your best,
Be fair in all the things you do and you'll be truly blessed.
*For I am your great grandmother and I love you.*

## COWBRIDGE MEETING WITH VALE DEVELOPMENT GROUP

# Farmers' Union leader lends his support for livestock market plans

**ABOVE:** *FUW president Glyn Roberts views the plans for the livestock market refurbishment at Cowbridge with local farmers.*

**FARMERS' Union of Wales president, Glyn Roberts, attended Cowbridge Livestock Market on November 24, with members of the Vale Market Community Enterprise group (VMCE), to look at the plans for the livestock market refurbishment and development of the surrounding area to local farmers.**

Glyn Roberts took the opportunity to discuss the proposed plans with members of the VMCE, FUW members, local farmers as well as the market auctioneers.

The union has long been in support of the mart, recognising that the closure of Cowbridge mart would remove a vital lifeline from the town and also make it necessary for farmers to travel far greater distances to sell their stock.

In 2013, the union contributed to a feasibility study in a bid to convince the Vale Council that it was profitable and vital to keep the mart open.

Glyn Roberts said: "Refurbishing this livestock market is a very exciting prospect. It's not just an important vehicle to establish the SQQ (Standard Quality Quotation) of lambs to calculate dead weight price but the integration of local people who want to sustain the old tradition of a livestock market here in Glamorgan is well worth supporting. I am very pleased to see that the agricultural industry and the local community want to market their products and work together for the good of the community."

VMCE unveiled its proposals in the summer to encourage members of the public to support the renovation plans by purchasing Community Bonds.

All funds raised by the bonds will be used directly towards building the market hall known as 'The Exchange' (*www.theexchangecowbridge.uk*) which will be used for a wide variety of purposes including a café and community shops.

VMCE has expressed its delight at the fact that only a limited number of bonds remain available for purchase.

FUW Glamorgan county executive officer Rachel Saunders said: "The proposed scheme will produce many benefits to the market site as a whole, including the addition of much-needed car parking facilities within the town centre, which will also provide the historical benefit of exposing the Cowbridge town wall which was built in the 13th century."

While the VMCE continue to negotiate with the Vale Council about a definite start date for the proposed works, members of the VMCE hope that the work can commence on the site by 2017.

*If any member of the public is interested in participating in the Community Bond scheme or wish to be registered on the database to receive updates, contact Mandy Davies 01656 674001; email mandydavies99@gmail.uk, website www.theexchangecowbridge.uk*

# Cowbridge choir's Christmas concert

**LAST Saturday (December 5) saw the annual Christmas celebration concert by Cowbridge Choral Society in Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge.**

**There was a varied programme, with the society singing Christmas music old and new, from Handel to Karl Jenkins.**

**The choir were joined by guest performers Vanessa John Hall, who sang three lyrical solos, 'Old Spice' who provided their usual very polished take on traditional Christmas songs, and the children from Wick and Marcross Church in Wales Primary School who entertained all the audience with their enthusiastic singing.**

**The society would like to thank Holy Cross Church and all the advertisers who supported the concert for helping to make the evening a great success.**

**The Society takes its Christmas break now until January 7, when rehearsals will begin again for the Spring concert in April.**

**New members are always welcome to join Cowbridge Choral Society, and experience is not essential. Rehearsals take place in the United Free Church, Westgate Street (opposite the Police Station) every Thursday at 7.30pm.**

## COMMUNITY NEWS

*Your local correspondent is* ***NANCY DAVIDGE***
*"Tynewydd", Llangan.*
*(01656) 860303*
**TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL**

### Saron Chapel lottery winners

**WINNERS of the December lottery draw which took place on December 2 were: first prize of £100, Ruth Sampson; second prize of £50, Steve Wilson; third prize of £25, Mrs Joan Lloyd.**

Reminder! Christmas service on Sunday, December 13 at 3pm followed by the party in the village hall for the children and parents.

On Christmas Eve there will be a short service in Saron which will begin at 6pm.

### St Mary Hill Church

**A CAROL service will take place at St Mary's on Sunday, December 20 at 11.15am.**

Following the service, refreshments will be served; this will be an ideal opportunity to exchange Christmas greetings with neighbours and friends!

### Young at Heart club

**THE Treoes village hall will be closed today, December 10 as members will be visiting Porthcawl for their annual Christmas lunch.**

## *Penllyn Bridge*

*Thursday, November 5 – 23 pairs: first, Judith and Colin Nunn 60.75 per cent; second, David and Marion Stephenson 59.32; third, Dot Williams and Pam Hanmer 58.*

*Thursday, November 12 – 21 pairs: joint first, Lou and Phil Edwards, Marian East and Barbara Easterbrook 59.44 per cent; third, John Lord and Jo Ilsley 57.58.*

*Thursday, November 19 – 20 pairs: first, Marian East and Barbara Easterbrook 68.49 per cent; second, Judith and Colin Nunn 58.59; third, Mansel Thomas and Sandra Collin 57.32.*

*Thursday, November 26 – 17 pairs, Robert Brown competition: first, John Hunter and Cath Domican 65.26 per cent; second, Ireen and Richard Daniels 62.34; third, Allan Evans and Keith Price 57.86.* ***CN***

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
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www.cowbridge-today.co.uk
www.llantwit-major-today.co.uk
www.bridgend-today.co.uk
www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

## School cluster council meeting

**ON Tuesday, November 24 pupils at Llantwit Major Comprehensive School met year-5 pupils from the school councils of our local feeder schools. At the meeting pupils were able to ask a variety of questions about life at the comprehensive, which they could then feed back to their classmates.**

Pupils were split into different groups to discuss what they thought made a good learner and brainstormed their ideas.

Staff were able to report back about the recent CSI day and open evening for primary school parents, and pupils were able to recommend what they would like to happen when these events are available to them.

At the end, pupils had a tour of the school, looking at the building site of the new school and areas which interested them. Pupils from all schools mixed and a lot of information was shared. Many questions were raised and all pupils were able to input their opinions. **SB**

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# 'Funding crisis threatens care homes in Vale'

**CARE homes and domiciliary care companies in the Vale of Glamorgan are threatened with closure – because of a looming funding crisis, it has been claimed.**

*ABOVE: Mario Kreft, chair of Care Forum Wales.*

The planned introduction of the living wage in the social care sector will have "catastrophic" consequences unless more money is found to pay for the spiralling costs of care.

The Five Nations Care Forum, which represents the sector in the home nations and the Republic of Ireland, is so worried it has written to Chancellor George Osborne warning him it could push many care and nursing homes and domiciliary care companies over the financial edge.

According to the Five Nations, the social care workforce deserve to be better rewarded but nobody has worked out how it's going to be paid for.

They say the fact that more and more people are liing longer is putting huge pressure on the social care sector – to the point where it is becoming "unsustainable and financially unstable."

People working in social care are due to start receiving the living wage, set at £7.20 an hour, from next April.

Mario Kreft, chair of Care Forum Wales and a founder member of the Five Nations, was also concerned about the impact on the older and disabled people who use care services.

Mr Kreft said: "We call on Government and the devolved Ministers to ensure that care services are adequately funded now and in the future.

"It is right that care workers should be well rewarded for the important work they do. However this is unrealistic for publically funded care providers given current prices paid by commissioning bodies for care.

"It has been estimated that the cost of funding the National Living Wage in the care sector in the UK will be in excess of £2.3 billion by 2020.

"It is vital, therefore, the Chancellor addresses the growing deficit in the social care sector and that funding is provided to ensure the devolved departments with care commissioning responsibilities have adequate funds to meet the care and support needs of the population.

"We are concerned that the rising costs of delivering care, if they are not met with an adequate increase in funding, will have catastrophic implications for the sector as a whole and will have consequences for the statutory health sector in the form of delayed discharges and increasing demographic pressures.

"Diminished capacity in the social care sector and the increasing risk of provider failure – apart from having a serious negative effect on citizens - will impact greatly on the efficiency of the health sector.

"We estimate that over the financial year 2013/14 the statutory health sector in the UK spent well in excess of £1.05 billion on delayed discharges.

"If this situation is not resolved as a matter of urgency, we are concerned that the growing pressures on the health sector over the winter months will result in a serious crisis in the sector. This will impact most acutely on people with health and care needs.

"It is therefore vitally important that the Chancellor addresses this looming crisis as a matter of urgency."

## *Super Ambassadors to mark Children's Day*

**YOUNG people from the Vale Youth Service Rights Ambassadors project co-hosted a 'Super Ambassadors' training event for Vale pupils with the Children's Commissioner for Wales, Professor Sally Holland, recently, to mark Universal Children's Day.**

The Super Ambassadors Scheme, to which all primary schools in Wales can sign-up, enables pupils to become the commissioner's ambassadors within their schools and fulfil three missions every term.

Held at the YMCA in Barry, the event supported the children's Super Ambassador training by giving them the opportunity to take part in workshops, led by the Rights Ambassadors, on how their rights impact everyday life. The day was hailed a "great succes"s, with both children and teachers saying they found it very beneficial.

Rights Ambassador Daniel Marshall, who was recently elected Youth Mayor for the Vale, said the event was "a superb showcase of how important children's rights are in the Vale of Glamorgan."

*To find out more about the Rights Ambassadors project, contact Geraint Evans on 02920 701254 or email gdevans@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.*

## FLORAL GROUP'S GIFT FOR VELINDRE APPEAL

*RIGHT; The Barry Floral group recently celebrated Christmas and donated £470 and 130 knitted chicks to the Velindre appeal.*

**East Vale Residents Company Limited**

Did you own a property between **1st April 2008** and **31st March 2015** on the following streets in St Athan?

Clive Road
Drake Close
Flemingston Road
Livingstone Way
Mallory Close
Scott Close
Shackleton Close

If so, and you have now moved, you may be entitled to a small refund of service charges.

**Please contact Jenny Hardbattle** at the Cadarn Housing Group (the managing agent) on TEL: 029 2000 5425 or e-mail jenny.hardbattle@cadarn.co.uk for information, with 28 days of this notice.

# St Athan welcomes Christmas lights in a howling gale!

**AS the wind howled and the rain lashed down, the good folk of St Athan ventured bravely out onto a scene, which if only it had snowed, would not have been out of place in a Charles Dickens story!**

There was a brass band, a fairground, Ultimate CAOS, Steve Doolan and in front of a huge crowd, the fantastic choir from St Athan Primary School, who sang their hearts out.

A visit from Father Christmas also brought great cheer to one and all, and despite the wind and rain, BBC weather girl Behnaz Aghtar was on hand to tell everyone that we might yet be celebrating a white Christmas – and also that she only tells people the weather and was not at all responsible for creating it!

Many took shelter in St Tathan Church where Christmas crafts and refreshments were available all afternoon, culminating with the church's Christingle service after the big switch on.

Later, the evening continued with Steve singing in the Three Horseshoes, the Grand Prize Draw and some rather impromptu karaoke too!

There are so many people to thank for making the event happen – Aberthaw Power Station and the St Athan Community Council, the farmer for lending us our trailer/stage, all local shops and businesses for contributing funding and draw prizes, Mike Higgs and Chris Pope for invaluable technical expertise and backstage support – not forgetting Christmas tree erecting, Chris Murray Sound, all our performers and everyone who supported the event.

All this was only made possible with the support of the Vale Council and Tina and Mike from The Three Horseshoes.

Our village looks festively sparkly – why not pop down one evening to see for yourselves. A very happy Christmas to one and all.

**ALAN BOURNE**

# ROBIN HOOD AND HIS MERRY MEN, IN PANTO!

***THE pantomime Robin Hood performed last week in St Paul's Church Hall, Pontyclun was yet another outstanding success for the St Paul's Players.***

***"Many thanks to everyone involved, especially the cast, for their non-stop jokes and entertaining songs," a spokeswoman said.***

# *Llantwit 'fields' recognised*

**ON the evening of Thursday, December 2 Fields, the 90th annual Fields in Trust awards dinner took place at Lord's Cricket Ground.**

Llantwit Major Town Council were nominated for two awards, Partner of the Year Award and Centenary Field of the Year.

Unfortunately, the Town Council didn't win the Partner of the Year Award, but was given deserved recognition as one of the nominees with the presenter Ore Oduba saying a few words with pictures on the screen showing Lorna Hughes Park, Seaview Park and the Recreation Ground.

Separately, Seaview Park was featured as a showcase Centenary Field with the story behind the memorial gates read out.

In October, Llantwit Major Town Council was recognised for its commitment to Fields in Trust by featuring in the organisation's newsletter, Wales autumn edition.

# Brynteg boys get advice from international star

**BRYNTEG Comprehensive School welcomed the former Welsh rugby international Ian Gough to the school recently to work with 12 year-11 boys as part of the 'Reach for the Sky' programme, which has been launched across a number of schools in south Wales.**

**This is a mentoring scheme that the school runs in conjunction with Education Staffing Solutions, with the aim of improving the attainment of boys.**

**The 12 boys are also involved in the school 'Infinity' programme, which this scheme complements.**

**Within the school scheme, pupils are assigned an individual mentor, who supports them through year-11.**

**Ian spent the morning with the boys, discussing their aspirations, their goals and the ways to achieve these.**

**The boys were able to ask Ian a range of questions, as well as working with him on activities designed to develop the responsibility they take for their own learning.**

**He will meet them again in January, where they will review their targets and achievements to date. They will also be taught a range of revision strategies that will help to prepare them for their forthcoming examinations.**

**In April, the boys will visit the Principality Stadium with Ian, as part of the final session.**

***Article by Mr David Ince, head of year-11***

***Brynteg Comprehensive pupils meet former Wales star Ian Gough.***

# Cowbridge tapas bar goes online

**BAR 44, which started in Cowbridge and now has tapas branches in Penarth and Cardiff, is offering some of its prime Spanish delicacies, all packaged for Christmas and available from its online store.**

A company spokeswoman said: "The products for each selection box have been lovingly tried, tested and selected by the Bar 44 brothers, Tom and Owen Morgan.

"Using their years of expertise, knowledge and close relationships with their Spanish producers, Tom and Owen have put together an outstanding array of 11 quality food and drink selection boxes.

"From craft ales and beers, premium Sherries, Spanish reds, whites and Cavas, which are hard to find on supermarket shelves, to entertaining staples including olives, nuts and high quality Iberico and Serrano ham legs – there's something to suit every palate or occasion. "

She continued: "With online ordering, UK-wide next day dispatch and fully trackable delivery, you can send your gastronomic gifts far and wide.

"There's also a Click and Collect from Bar 44 for those local enough to pop in."

*To browse the Bar44 online store, go to www.bar44.co.uk/shop*

# Walking Nativity on December 11

**ON Friday, December 11 at 6pm, a little part of Cowbridge becomes Bethlehem!**

By popular demand, the Cowbridge Walking Nativity is returning for its third year.

The Nativity, with parts all played by adults drawn from all the churches in Cowbridge, is set in the atmospheric surroundings of Old Hall Gardens and the Physic Garden, starting outside the library.

The event unfolds with Mary and Joseph slowly making their way to Bethlehem in search of somewhere to stay.

As they go, the audience follow and carols are sung at each stage of the journey.

The Walking Nativity is free of charge, as are the refreshments that will be provided at the end of the Nativity journey.

It is suitable for all ages, young and old and lasts approximately three-quarters of an hour.

So grab a torch, wrap up warmly, it is an outside event and will go ahead whatever the weather, although the refreshments maybe served inside.

*Join us at this special event that really puts the heart back into Christmas.*

*For more information telephone 01446 775048.*

**LEONIE HAIN**

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# HIGH LEVEL TALKS TO PLAN SANTA CLAUS' ROUTE OVER AIRPORT: No flight zone agreed

*Santa strains to see his flight path due to the busy skies.*

*Santa arrives at Cardiff Airport in Rhoose for urgent talks with air traffic controllers.*

*A telling-off at security for trying to sneak through a sharp object – one of the elves' hammers!*

*Santa meets Daryl Rowlands, general manager at NATs air traffic control and Debra Barber, managing director at Cardiff Airport, to negotiate a no-flight zone to clear the skies in time for Christmas Eve.*

**SANTA CLAUS has had high level all-day talks at Cardiff Airport to plan his route over the busy skies in Wales, to ensure local children receive their gifts on time for Christmas morning.**

With increased flights arriving and departing at Rhoose, Santa met Debra Barber, managing director at the airport, and also visited the air traffic control tower to coordinate his route.

He arrived at Cardiff Airport in his sleigh before going through security and setting off the alarm with his belt.

Santa said: "The elves and I work very hard in the lead-up to Christmas to ensure children will get their presents and I'd heard about all these new routes at Cardiff Airport, so I needed to make sure Rudolph and the rest of the reindeer would be able to guide my sleigh safely on Christmas Eve.

"I met the staff at Cardiff Airport to talk about the traffic expected on my flight path and they were very accommodating.

"They even had a mince pie and a glass of milk waiting for me and some carrots for the reindeer!

"We're currently working on a plan for a no-fly zone on Christmas Eve. After all, I've never been late for a Christmas delivery and I don't intend to start now!"

The airport chief reported: "We held a very long meeting with Santa this week to talk about the exciting new developments at Cardiff Airport this year.

"With 14 new Flybe routes, daily flights to Amsterdam with KLM, Vueling routes to Spain not to mention Ryanair and Thomson flights to the warmer climes of the Canaries, there will be lots more flights and busier skies. We knew these may cause him some tricky problems on Christmas Eve.

"Thankfully we have come up with the perfect solution meaning his Christmas route will run to time. He even had time to meet some local children from St Nicholas Church in Wales primary school and some of the staff's children, too."

*ABOVE: Debra Barber says goodbye to Santa and reassures him that presents will be delivered on time to children across Wales. BELOW: Staff in the radar room show Santa the area which will be a dedicated no-flight zone on Christmas Eve.*

*ABOVE: Santa looks out from Cardiff Airport's air traffic control tower to observe his flight path in preparation for Christmas Eve.*

*RIGHT: Even Santa has to remove his boots to get through security.*

# SIXTY TREES LIGHT UP CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL VENUE

**ALL Saints' Church, Porthcawl was the venue for the fifth annual Christmas tree festival, organised by the Rotary Club of Porthcawl.**

Schools, local organisations and businesses placed more than 60 trees in the church making a stunning display.

Decorations ranged from recycled material including old socks and rolled newspaper, to delicate hand-made items and knitted figures.

Despite the weather, the event was well attended, as were two concerts held during the week.

The festival concert which featured pupils from Porthcawl Comprehensive School, Nottage Primary School, Ysgol Y Ferch O'r Sger, Nottage Primary School, Aelwyd Yr Urdd and St Clare's School, as well as local choir Sounds Familiar saw the church packed; and an afternoon concert by Col Canto provided many with a welcome break from Christmas shopping.

This event is supported by the church and Rotary Club of Porthcawl as a community event and was entirely free; however, coffee and mince pies were on sale during the week, three fine Christmas hampers were raffled and voluntary donations taken at the concerts.

Money raised will be used to support local charities and also the church, where the electricity and heating bill will have increased considerably over the week!

**LC**

# Local volunteers send 27,000 Christmas shoe boxes to world's needy

*Right: A record number of shoe boxes have been shipped from the Vale this year – each box is stuffed with toys for children. The boxes are destined for Eastern Europe and as far away as the Middle East.*

**VOLUNTEERS tucked away in a warehouse just outside Cowbridge have dispatched over 27,000 shoe boxes packed with Christmas presents for children around the world – as part of the Operation Christmas Child campaign by the charity Samaritan's Purse.**

**Local politicians Alun Cairns MP and Andrew RT Davies AM visited the warehouse to meet volunteers and help with box packing.**

**A record number of shoes boxes have been shipped from the Vale this year – each box is stuffed with age-relevant toys for children up to the age of 14 – all donated thanks to the generosity of Vale residents and from others across south Wales.**

**Shoe boxes shipped from Llandow Industrial Estate are destined to reach children in Kyrgyzstan, Romania, Belarus and refugee camps outside of Syria.**

**Mr Cairns said: "The incredible amount of effort put in by volunteers to process tens of thousands of shoe boxes in record time is heartwarming at this time of year. Thousands of children around the world will open a magical box, full of thoughtful gifts put together by residents of the Vale."**

# South Wales RNLI volunteers help the local rescue efforts in Carlisle

**RNLI flood rescue team volunteers from Penarth, Porthcawl, Barry Dock, Anglesey and Port Talbot have joined emergency services from across the country to help people caught up in floods in Cumbria.**

RNLI volunteers operating in Carlisle and Cockermouth evacuated over 300 people over the weekend and are continuing to help in affected areas today.

Two RNLI teams have been wading through flood waters to help people in Workington.

The RNLI's team of specifically trained flood rescue volunteers arrived in Kendal on Saturday and have been helping the communities affected by flooding ever since.

RNLI volunteers from south Wales helping with rescue operations include Jason Dunlop from Penarth, Chris Missen from Porthcawl, John Perring from Port Talbot, Hugh Davies from Barry Dock and Sarah Lunn from Anglesey.

Among the tasks undertaken by the Welsh RNLI Flood Rescue Team volunteers was a joint operation to evacuate elderly and vulnerable residents of a care home in Carlisle last night.

About 15 of the home's residents, and five carers, needed to be taken from the home which had floodwater throughout its ground floor, had lost power and was getting cold.

Working in partnership with fellow emergency services, three RNLI Flood Rescue Team boats were involved in the evacuation, with volunteers carrying the elderly residents down from the first floor to the waiting boats, which transferred them to dry land for further care.

All were taken to safety..

# Christmas story is told at Holy Trinity, Llandow

**DAVID HARRIS and Imogen Piper played the parts of Mary and Joseph with Collin the donkey from Sheepleys in Holy Trinity Church, Llandow.**

They began their journey round the parishes of Llandow, Colwinston and Llysworney.

The group was blessed in the Advent service, and sent on their way, looking for room in the 'inn' at many families in the parish before finding their way to crib services in the three churches before Christmas.

This custom – called Posada, meaning an inn, or shelter – comes from Mexico. It records the journey of Joseph and the pregnant Mary from Nazareth to Bethlehem, where Mary then gave birth to Jesus. **AK**

# Ukulele workshop – in Welsh!

**EIGHT enthusiasts enjoyed a happy two-hour beginners' ukulele workshop conducted in Welsh by tutor Mei Gwynedd (back row, second from left) at the Park Hotel in Barry on the evening of Thursday, November 26.**

**Some of the workshop members were experienced musicians on other instruments, others total beginners.**

**The workshop was a pilot to see if there might be enough interest to establish a weekly 'Ukulele and Welsh' class from April next year.**

*If you would like to join in the fun, telephone Ffion Rhisiart on 02920 689888, or email her at ffion@menterbromorgannwg.cymru to express an interest.*

# LATE NIGHT SHOPPING

***COWBRIDGE businesses are putting out the red carpet this Thursday (December 10) for their traditional pre-Christmas late night shopping evening.***

***A spokeswoman said: "We all look forward to seeing you and would love you to pop in to all the shops.***

***"There will be lots of nibbles and Christmas treats, so it should be a great night to some Christmas shopping!"***

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# CHURCH CHOIR GOES ON A TOUR – TO DINAS POWYS!

*TOP, left: Judith Anderson, Coun John Fanshaw and Pam Gay advertising Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern events.*

**THE St Peter's Church Choir is 'on tour' for the first time this Christmas, and will perform at the Christmas coffee morning on December 16 in Murchfield Community Hall, Sunnycroft Lane, Dinas Powys, 10.30am until 12.30pm. There is no charge.**

**Coun John Fanshaw chair of Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern said he was delighted that the choir was available to entertain and he invited everyone to the event, which includes stalls, cakes, raffle and carol singing.**

**If you require transport, call Wendy, the co-ordinator, on 02920 513700 between 9.30am and 12.30am daily.**

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# Youth volunteering success through Dish Out Dosh

**A VOLUNTEER-LED homework club based in Rhoose, Solid Foundation, meets every week at the community centre.**

Solid Foundation has become so successful over the last year and exists because people of all ages volunteer their time to support the learning of children and young people in the area.

Earlier this year, they applied to Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS) youth-led 'Dish Out Dosh' grants panel and received a grant to purchase specialised teaching resources, and a trophy to recognise the achievement of youth volunteers.

On November 24, Solid Foundation held its AGM and awards event. The GVS 'Dish Out Dosh' panel were invited to this exciting event to present the GVS 'Dish Out Dosh' Young Volunteer award.

Nichole and Sion, two of the panel members said: "It's important to recognise the hard work so many young people put into volunteering. We were delighted to present the award to Megan Harris and Natasha Lynch for their commitment shown to volunteering and inspiring others to volunteer."

*If you would like to get involved in volunteering, GVS can help you find the perfect opportunity. Pop into our Holton Road office, call 01446 741706, email enquiries@gvs.wales, or visit www.gvs.wales.*

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5 We arrange a series of free third sector events throughout the year and invite guest speakers such as the Chair of the University Health Board and key funders

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# Newspaper industry celebrates Sir Ray Tindle's 'long and distinguished career'

**NEWS Media Association chairman Ashley Highfield has spoken of the remarkable achievements of Sir Ray Tindle at a lunch celebrating the publisher's 90th birthday.**

At a lunch in the Savoy, London, attended by national and local press publishers to mark the occasion of Sir Tindle's 90th birthday next year, Mr Highfield recounted some highlights of Sir Ray's 68-year career in local newspapers and his longstanding involvement with the Newspaper Society, now the NMA (News Media Association).

Mr Highfield said: "You have served our association actively for more than 55 years, holding every office – from president of the Newspaper Society, and honorary treasurer, to councillor and chairman of virtually every committee the members ever invented.

"On top of your many achievements and successes – your OBE in 1973, your CBE in 1987, and being knighted in 1994, it is little known that one of your own personal highlights happened very early in your career."

Sir Ray launched his first newspaper aboard a troopship at sea during the Second World War and started his publishing company using his army demob payment of £300.

Speaking at the lunch, Sir Ray launched a passionate defence of local weekly newspapers. He said: "The newspaper industry should be very proud that for over 200 years we have coped with each problem as it came along.

"To face the current difficulty we'll achieve more local advertisement revenue and we'll redesign our businesses in order to ensure that local papers can live out of that new level of revenue, whatever it is. Local papers are wanted and needed by local communities. They will live for ever.

"I got a job on a local weekly and I wouldn't change one day of a wonderful 68 years in the local press. The locals will survive because no other medium gives local news in depth the way local papers do, and local people want this detail.

"Local papers are the only medium most locals will ever appear in, and when they do, that's the medium in which all their neighbours and friends will see it, so local papers will always be there."

Over course of his career, Sir Ray has held numerous roles within the news media industry. He was a founder member of Capital Radio and a member of the Guardian Media Group board for nearly 20 years.

Sir Ray launched the Weekly Newspaper Advertising Bureau and has been Master of the Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers.

He also served on the Newspaper Panel of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and was a member of the Commonwealth Press Union council, as well as being a founder director of PressBoF.

Mr Highfield said: "Never before in the history of the British press has there been a publisher quite like you. We salute you, Ray, for your three years of wartime service. We applaud your 68-year career and over 55 years of wise counsel to the NMA and the NS before it.

"We thank you for the marvellous lunch we are enjoying today. And we wish you continued success, prosperity and good health throughout your 90th year and beyond."

*Sir Ray Tindle's lunch at the Savoy in London was held following the NMA's half-yearly meeting.*

## *New law to increase Welsh donor rates comes into force*

**WALES last week became the first country in the UK to introduce a revolutionary new system to increase the number of organ donors.**

It moves to a 'soft opt-out' system where people aged 18 and over who have lived in Wales for more than 12 months and who die in Wales will be regarded as having consented to organ donation unless they have opted out. This is called 'deemed consent'.

People who want to be an organ donor can register a decision to opt in or do nothing, which will mean they have no objection to being an organ donor. Those people who do not want to be organ donor can opt out at any time.

The change to the organ donation law came into force on December 1 and it is estimated could lead to a 25 per cent increase in the number of organ donors.

The latest figures show 14 people in Wales died while waiting for a transplant in 2014-15. There are currently 224 people on the Welsh transplant waiting list, including eight children, compared with 209 at the end of March 2014.

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## Christmas comes early for rugby fans – thanks to Oil 4 Wales

**INDEPENDENT oil distribution company, Oil 4 Wales, recently held a community event for rugby fans as an early Christmas present.**

The family-run business which puts the community at the heart of its operation hosted a special 'meet and greet' session with rugby stars in Brecon.

The company's brand ambassadors kicking legend Dan Biggar, 'the Chopper' Dan Lydiate, hooker Ken Owens and former Welsh international Scott Quinnell, were on hand to sign autographs and pose for photos with local residents.

This is the latest community event to be hosted by Oil 4 Wales, which has this year seen the company host rugby meet and greets in Maesteg, Blaenau Ffestiniog and Milford Haven.

With more planned for 2016, Oil 4 Wales would love to hear from local groups who wish to treat their community to a special rugby event.

***Gweithio gyda'r gymuned, dros y gymuned,***
***Working with the community, for the community.***

## *YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR A TAX BREAK!*

**WITH 200,000 people eligible for receiving Marriage Allowance in Wales, married couples are being reminded to apply for a Christmas cash boost by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC).**

Applying online for Marriage Allowance – a tax break for married couples – is quick and easy. Couples can apply at gov.uk/marriage-allowance.

The allowance means a spouse or civil partner who doesn't pay tax – either because they're not earning at all or because they're earning below £10,600 – can transfer up to £1,060 of their personal tax-free allowance to a spouse or civil partner – as long as the recipient of the transfer doesn't pay more than the basic rate of Income Tax. This can help save couples up to £212 a year.

Ruth Owen, director of general personal tax at HMRC, said: "Marriage Allowance means couples up and down the country can get a bit of extra support at a time of year when we all need a little more cash.

"Whether you use it to buy presents for the family or put it away for a rainy day Marriage Allowance means saving £212 on your tax bill every year.

"People can apply at any point in the tax year and still receive the full benefit of the allowance."

## 'Glamorgan GEM is still glittering!'

***THE GEM was mentioned in dispatches on Sunday (December 6) in media columnist Peter Preston's weekly column in The Observer.***

*Mr Preston, a former Editor of The Guardian, reported on Sir Ray Tindle's 90th birthday dinner (**see article above**) and noted admiringly that a number of Tindle group newspapers were up on last year's figures, having increased local advertising to compensate for the much-reported lower national advertising spend.*

*He noted that The Glamorgan GEM was up by £23,000; the Leigh Times was up £3,500 by week 31, and the Biggin Hill News up by £5,000.*

***Mr Preston concluded: "Absolutely archetypal Tindle, all is well with the world if The Glamorgan GEM is still glittering".***

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# Out & About with The GEM

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## Max's cheeky answer to Haka has everyone upstanding!

*Max Boyce – live in The Bear. (Image by Riley Photography/Events Room).*

**IN recent years, an impressive line-up of celebrity speakers has been drawn to the Bear Hotel in Cowbridge for notable lunchtime gatherings presented by the Events Room, which have also helped to raise funds for good causes.**

**They have included sporting greats such as Britain's former world heavyweight champion Frank Bruno and Australian rugby ace David Campese – and the latest 'prize draw' on Friday of last week was the man who personifies the very essence of Welsh rugby itself – the irrepressible Max Boyce.**

**The moment he was introduced by the MC (former Ospreys rugby coach and TV pundit Sean Holley) and stood up to speak, everyone present knew this was to be no ordinary lunchtime delivery – how could it be?**

**This was an effortlessly fluent entertainer who had no need of crib notes as he launched into the side-splitting, fun-poking patter that has won over audiences for decades, both in Wales and worldwide, and it rapidly became a Vale mini version of the 'Max Boyce Show'!**

**Before they quite knew what was happening, the diners-turned-concert-audience were dragged to their feet, baa-ing like mountain sheep, to the tune of the Welsh National Anthem – and performing Max's hilarious, tongue-in-cheek answer to the New Zealand Haka – to the tune of Humpty Dumpty – complete with suitable hand gestures!**

**Whether this will be trialled for real Down Under when Wales line up against the All Blacks in the summer tests remains to be seen!**

***But what another delicious occasion that would be to savour and for everyone to say – "I WAS THERE!"***

***Don John***

# WHAT'S ON, WHERE, AND WHEN?

### Peterston market

**THE Christmas market and craft fair will be held this Saturday, (December 12) from 10am – 2pm in Peterston-Super-Ely church and community hall.**

There will be numerous stalls, games and activities to entertain the children and a bran tub. Choirs from the primary school and St Peter's handbell ringers will entertain, followed by carol singing, mince pies, mulled, wine, homemade soup and hot turkey rolls.

*All proceeds will go to hall upkeep and improvments. Contact Pat Cadwalladr on 01446 760267 for further details.*

### Nine Lessons and Carols

**THE former Church of St Lawrence at Fort Road, Lavernock will host a service of Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 13 at 3pm, with Anne Thomas accompanying on the harmonium.**

Mulled wine and mince pies will be served afterwards in the Marconi Inn. All welcome. Free parking on the left of Fort Road near the church; enquiries to Rev Margaret Stark on 02920 701303.

### Shoppers urged 'buy local'

**VALE producers are urging shoppers to "support your local markets and retailers this Christmas" through a network of farmers' markets, farm shops, delis and also online.**

Among these markets listed on the farmers' markets in Wales website *www.fmiw.co.uk* are markets in Cowbridge on December 23 and Peanrth on December 19.

Myfanwy Edwards of Vale Farmers' Markets said: "Our market has been established for 15 years.

"We have a wide range of fantastic produce from meat and vegetables to bread, cheese, beers, eggs and chocolates. Everything you would want for a great local Christmas.

"The producers come from all over south Wales. Come and support them and buy local this Christmas!"

### Big Screen

**THE next film this season will be *Cinderella* (cert U) on Thursday, December 17 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall.**

This is Disney's latest adaptation of the fairytale, and a fine start to the festive season for all the family.

Doors open 7.10pm; tickets £4 (available in advance from the Town Clerk's office or on the door).

### Ice Cool break!

**DISNEY favourites Elsa, Anna and Olaf will be visiting Leekes Llantrisant, for an ice-tastic breakfast on Sunday, December 20 from 10.30am-11.30am, when children will be entertained by the popular characters as they enjoy a fun-filled breakfast in the store, a free gift, colouring competitions and a prize for the best costume.**

*Tickets are available from the information desk in the store; £5 for children, £7.50 for adults, which includes breakfast and a free gift for children.*

### Valeways walks

**HERE are the Valeways walks scheduled for the remainder of the year:**

Sunday, December 13 at 2pm, 'Winter's day – dress up warm!', starting at Cold Knap sea front car park, Barry.

On Tuesday, December 15 at 10am, Crwydro, starting at Llyfrgell, Y Bontfaen.

Also on December 15 at 2.30pm, the coffee shop strollers meet outside the Town Hall in Llantwit Major.

On Wednesday, December 16 at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet at Romilly Cafe, Cold Knap, Barry.

On Wednesday, December 23, at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet again at Cosmeston Country Park visitor centre.

On Wednesday, December 30, at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet at Romilly Cafe, Cold Knap, Barry.

On Thursday, January 31 at 10am, 'Bring a Coffin!', meeting at the Cross Inn Pub, Llanblethian, Cowbridge.

On Friday, January 1 at 1pm, 'Dave's New Year's Day walk', starting at St Peter's Church, Mill Road, Dinas Powys.

### Meet Santa in Barry!

**MEET Santa, decorate cookies, make reindeer food – or have a go on the mega slide at a Christmas event run by the Vale Council-led Barry Communities First in partnership with Legacy Leisure, Newydd Housing Association and The People Centre at Barry Leisure Centre on Tuesday, December 22 (11am–1pm and 1.30pm–3.30pm).**

Entry is free for adults and £3 for children, with tickets for children available from Barry Leisure Centre reception. Each ticket includes a free printed photograph with Father Christmas and a selection box.

For those living in a Barry Communities First area, which includes parts of Buttrills, Cadoc, Castleland, Court and Gibbonsdown, tickets are available free on a first come, first served basis from the Barry Community Enterprise Centre, Skomer Road, Barry, CF62 9DA.

These tickets can be picked up anytime between Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm.

*For more information, contact 01446 709432 or email communitiesfirst@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.*

### Toys and Trains

**CARDIFF Toy and Train sale will be held on January 9 at 10.30am – 3pm in Penarth Leisure Centre, Andrew Road, Cogan, Cardiff CF64 2NS.**

*For full details, contact 01643 702757 or 07966 694579: www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk.*

### Mahjong afternoon

**A MAHJONG afternoon will be held at Llanmaes Church Hall on January 13 from 2pm – 5pm.**

Money raised will support the World At Play charity, which sends young people from Wales to orphanages in eastern Europe to play and support youngsters there.

The event is open to complete beginners and more experienced players, with tea and coffee provided. Mahjong is a great game to learn and a chance to meet new friends. Entry £7.

## Amelia Trust tells the story of the Nativity

**FAMILIES will be able to sing carols and be part of the Nativity story, told under the stars with live animals.**

It is taking place at Amelia Trust Farm on December 15 at 4.30pm.

You will need to wrap up warm and bring lights and torches! Families are encouraged to dress as shepherds, angels and kings and there will be a prize for the best costume.

Burgers, hotdogs and warm mince pies will be available in the newly-refurbished café.

The cost for the event is £5 per car, and it is essential to buy your tickets in advance as entrance is by ticket only. Tickets are selling quickly and are available from the Farm office; call 01446 782030 to book.

We have cake decorating and craft sessions for children taking place in the run up to Christmas. We have sessions on December 19, 22 and 23. Sessions cost £7 per child.

*Booking for these sessions is essential. Email me at jow@ameliatrust.org.uk to book.*

**JO WHITFIELD**

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## Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

**THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D908.**

- **£2,000:** 549863.
- **The rollover, which was £2,500, was won by 296539.**
- **£10:** 909461, 944506, 625494, 244983, 739803, 296734, 528208, 253194, 191487, 338371, 319026, 731472, 145222, 538603, 729864, 230252, 483771, 505371, 807.
- **£5:** 850547, 324943, 694336, 181390, 515133, 441125, 202309, 428108, 672150, 580624, 847980, 357310, 205144, 333893, 748036, 886642, 510998, 245848, 247589, 577177, 817039, 329118, 517777, 478044, 561397, 261864, 690593, 961406, 280511, 751617, 644668, 760182, 559622, 102198, 389500, 567086, 694653, 979682, 433976, 870353, 324312, 417638, 468616, 594998, 848372, 118275, 875871, 164402, 154820, 437957, 308965, 286503, 763250, 115762, 151205, 594439, 428238, 261003, 1738, 814.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

*For lottery information please telephone* 029 2053 2300.

## Nell's Point

**THE Vale Council's decision to invite detailed proposals and a planning application for a substantial hotel and resort development at Barry Island's Nell's Point has been endorsed by the authority's economy and environment scrutiny committee.**

**A 'preferred bidder' for the Nell's Point site was appointed in November. Negotiations are now under way on proposals for a hotel, leisure facilities and the re-use of the toilet block.**

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# People's Postcode Lottery tries to fill in missing links

**NATIONAL charity Missing People is one of the 63 causes in the UK supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery and has received over £3.4 million from players since 2008.**

**This funding sustains the charity's free, confidential and 24-hour helpline.**

**The latest statistics from the UK Missing Persons Bureau show 6,204 missing incidents reported to South Wales Police each year.**

**Cardiff resident Mansel Jones, who attended the event in Pontyclun on Saturday, said: "My cousin, Ross Evans from Aberdare, went missing from his hall of residence at the University of Bristol 50 years ago this month (November 2, 1965).**

**"He was a medical student seemingly happy and coping with his work. His family have never heard from him since and there's been no clue as to his disappearance.**

**"Had there been an organisation like Missing People at the time, I'm sure my relatives would have had greater support in their deep anxiety and, possibly, some answers.**

**"The charity Missing People is a lifeline when someone disappears – the kind of lifeline Ross's parents, brother and sister, and other family members could have done with back in the 60s and in the years that followed. It's a wonderful, much-needed charity and deserves our support."**

**Missing People chief executive Jo Youle said: "We can't thank players of People's Postcode Lottery enough for their continued support, helping us be a lifeline to missing people and their families in Wales and the rest of the UK. They make a vital contribution to our cause and we are thrilled when they win life-changing sums of money".**

***For more information about Missing People, visit their website: www.missingpeople.org.uk.***

*A recent People's Postcode Lottery draw took place in Pontyclun.*

# Britain's bombing campaign in Syria is now under way

**ONE of the oldest clichés in British life is '*a week is a long time in politics*' and that saying has proved particularly true in the last few days as Britain chose to bomb Islamic State in Syria.**

As The GEM was going to press last week, MPs were debating whether to take further military action in the region or not (the RAF had already been active in the skies above Iraq).

Following a tumultuous debate, 397 MPs backed the motion, with 223 against.

Those in favour had argued that ISIL presented an "unprecedented threat".

Within hours of the vote, the RAF were attacking selected targets including an oil refinery.

Local MPs Alun Cairns (Vale of Glamorgan) and Stephen Doughty (Cardiff South and Penarth) backed the bombing campaign. Huw Irranca-Davies (Ogmore) and Madeleine Moon (Bridgend) voted against.

Coun Kevin Mahoney, who stood for UKIP in the Vale this year, told The GEM that he opposed action in Syria.

He explained: "Whilst it has never made any military sense to attack an opponent in one area and then to stop at an arbitrary border, my greatest fear, and one that I am sure is shared by many members of the public, is that we have a bunch of politicians who really have no end game strategy, and in truth, no real idea which side they will be bombing and why.

"Apart from those linked with the Paris atrocity, David Cameron seems to have no idea of the merits or otherwise of any of the numerous factions fighting against each other in Syria, who all seem as bad as each other to the British public.

"His assertion that there are 70,000 so called 'moderates' waiting to rise up, and they need support, has been exposed and is as badly flawed as Tony Blair's statements over Iraq."

Plaid Cymru councillor Ian Johnson, who was the party's candidate in the general election, said he feared that bombing would make things worse.

"If I had been elected as MP last May, then I would have voted against bombing Syria.

"We all know that ISIS are evil, with a twisted ideology, but bombing without a well thought through plan for peace, risks worsening the situation further.

"Two years ago, MPs were being asked to bomb the other side in the Syrian conflict – people who we would now expect to gain control of the country if ISIS are defeated.

"What is needed is for the major powers in the region to act together – for Turkey to stop bombing the Kurds, and to close their borders with ISIS to stop them selling their oil; and for Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states to stop funding and arming ISIS as part of their regional and religious power-play.

"As we've seen from previous military failures in the Middle East, 'doing something' shouldn't mean bombing – it should mean securing a lasting peace."

**HOW WELSH MPS VOTED**

**For the motion (*military action*):**

*Chris Bryant (Labour, Rhondda); Wayne David (Labour, Caerphilly); Stephen Doughty (Labour, Cardiff South and Penarth); Susan Elan Jones (Labour, Clwyd South); Guto Bebb (Conservative, Aberconwy); Alun Cairns (Conservative, Vale of Glamorgan); Stephen Crabb (Conservative, Preseli Pembrokeshire); Byron Davies (Conservative, Gower); Chris Davies (Conservative, Brecon and Radnorshire); David Davies (Conservative, Monmouth); Glyn Davies (Conservative, Montgomeryshire); James Davies (Conservative, Vale of Clwyd); Simon Hart (Conservative, Carmarthen West and Pembrokeshire South); David Jones (Conservative, Clwyd West); Craig Williams (Conservative, Cardiff North)*

**Against the motion:**

*Kevin Brennan (Labour, Cardiff West); Geraint Davies (Labour, Swansea West); Chris Evans (Labour, Islwyn); Paul Flynn (Labour, Newport West); Nia Griffith (Labour, Llanelli); David Hanson (Labour, Delyn); Carolyn Harris (Labour, Swansea East); Huw Irranca-Davies (Labour, Ogmore); Gerald Jones (Labour, Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney); Stephen Kinnock (Labour, Aberavon); Ian Lucas (Labour, Wrexham); Madeleine Moon (Labour, Bridgend); Jessica Morden (Labour, Newport East); Albert Owen (Labour, Ynys Mon); Christina Rees (Labour, Neath); Nick Smith (Labour, Blaenau Gwent); Owen Smith (Labour, Pontypridd); Jo Stevens (Labour, Cardiff Central); Mark Tami (Labour, Alyn and Deeside); Nick Thomas-Symonds (Labour, Torfaen); Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru, Dwyfor Meirionnydd); Jonathan Edwards (Plaid Cymru, Carmarthen East and Dinefwr); Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru, Arfon); Mark Williams (Liberal Democrat, Ceredigion)*

*NB. Cynon Valley MP Ann Clwyd was unwell and unable to vote.*

# Budget will boost NHS by £300 million
## as Welsh Government invests for the future

**SINCE the Chancellor's Spending Review announcements on November 25, we have been working flat out to prepare a Draft Budget for the Welsh Government, which I presented to the Senedd on Tuesday, December 8.**

**Normally, by this time of the year, we would be debating a final Budget for the next financial year (2016/17) but the late Spending Review and Autumn Statement has left us preparing a number of possible financial scenarios for the next Welsh Government Budget, since the UK Government's Summer Budget in July.**

**The key announcement in my Draft Budget this week is an investment of nearly £300m additional finance for the Welsh NHS in 2016/17. This is at the heart of a Welsh Government Budget for a 'Fairer, Better Wales – Investing for the future'.**

**Despite a challenging financial settlement which has seen the Welsh Budget cut in real terms over the past five years, we are protecting a whole range of services next year including health, social services, schools and further education, as a result of the consultations we have undertaken and a clear commitment to funding our 'priorities' in public spending.**

**We are continuing to embrace a wider approach to our investment in health in Wales so the additional spend includes:**

**£200m to support core NHS services – hospitals and primary care; an extra £30m for health services for older people and for mental health services; a capital boost of £33.5m for new equipment, infrastructure and maintenance of NHS buildings; protection of our funding for public health services; and an increase in the Intermediate Care Fund from £20m to £50m, which enables the health service and social services to work together to support older and vulnerable people, by maintaining their independence at home, preventing hospital admission and helping early discharge with support at home.**

**This is already delivering great results in every part of Wales, including the Vale.**

**We know that local government is under huge pressure to deliver local services particularly for those at the 'sharp end of need', so we will provide an additional £21m to their social services budgets through the Local Government Revenue Support Grant.**

**School funding will continue to grow by one per cent more than changes to the Welsh Budget overall – almost £40m extra for next year and nearly £35m of this will support frontline school spending by local authorities.**

**This additional investment in schools and social services gives an important boost to local government in these tough times and once again our local authorities in Wales will have a more favourable financial settlement than in England.**

**We believe that young people are a major priority as they progress from school to further and higher education and we will protect further education from cuts in this Budget for next year, with a further £5m to create an additional 2,500 apprenticeships. An additional £10m will ensure that no Welsh student at university will have to pay more for their degree than if they had been students in 2010/11.**

**With the additional capital funding for health, the Draft Budget for next year will also set out plans for over £230m new investment to support the economy and public services including transport schemes, housing, schools and flood defences.**

**It has been a challenging settlement, with a further 3.6 per cent real terms cut in our Budget over the next five years – after five successive years of cuts by the UK Government.**

***We have taken difficult decisions in preparing the Budget I presented this week but we have done all we can to stick to our principles and priorities and protect the services that matter most to the people of Wales.***

**ASSEMBLY NOTES**

***by Jane Hutt AM***
(Minister for Finance)

**AM"s SURGERY**

***Vale AM Jane Hutt will be at the Age Connects Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, on Tuesday, December 15 from 10am to 11.30am.***

***No appointment is needed; contact 01446/ 32385 for further information.***

# Miss Wales finalist is supporting local children's charities

*Tonicha with volunteers at the Noah's Ark appeal.*

**by GEM REPORTER**

**WENVOE'S Miss Wales finalist Tonicha Harlow has been encouraging the local community to get involved in supporting children's causes.**

Tonicha, aged 17, explained: "During my Miss Wales Finalist journey, I have been fundraising for the Beauty with a Purpose Charity which helps vulnerable children within Wales.

"However, I also came across the Noah's Ark Christmas Stocking Appeal in Cardiff and when I read about the fantastic care and support the doctors, nurses and staff provide to vulnerable children and their families, I wanted to help as much as possible to raise awareness of this cause.

"I requested help on my Facebook page and would like to thank local businesses and the community for its generosity in providing gifts.

"In particular, I'd like to thank Maplin of Leckwith, Barry Round Table, Harlow Beauty, Racecourse News and Leigh Hartnell.

"I visited Noah's Ark Hospital with Dave Beadle from the Barry Round Table on Friday, November 27 to take donations received towards their Christmas Stocking Appeal.

" I also volunteered to help wrap the donations on December 1 and was overwhelmed by the amount of volunteers who took time out from their usually activities on the day.

"The Noah's Ark Appeal relies on the generosity of the public and helps raise funds to provide the best equipment and environment for the seriously ill children and their families.

"If GEM readers would like to donate a raffle prize towards my fundraising for 'Beauty with a Purpose' or would like me to make an appearance at an event, then please contact me via: www.facebook.com/tharlowmisswales 2016."

If you wish to make a donation to Noah's Ark, go to *www.noahsarkcharity.org*.

# Masons hosts Welsh bake-off in support of local causes

**by SARAH MASON**

**TAKE part in The Great Welsh Bake Off #TGWBO and donate to a fantastic local cause in the Vale.**

Come on down to Masons Self Storage, on December 16 where your tasty baking creations will be judged then sold and all proceeds of the cake sale will go to the Sensory Bus Project and Positive Interactions.

The winner will win two-courses for two people of Dommett's popular Sunday traditional carvery held at Brynhill Golf Club every Sunday.

If you'd like to take part in The Great Welsh Bake Off #TGWBO, drop us an email *TGWBO@masonsselfstorage.co.uk* to register by Friday, December 11.

In relation to the cake sale, don't worry if you're not feeling up to taking on Mary Berry, there'll be plenty of cake needing a good home and a fantastic cause to donate to, so pop along and enjoy all of the scrummy cakes.

It's an event for all ages, you can get to see the bus itself and there will be Father Christmas making an appearance at 4.30pm!

If you're looking for an alternative to storing Christmas gifts at home, away from where your loved ones can track them down, or just have those bigger presents like bikes and electronic items that you don't have space for at home, then at Masons Self Storage, we have the perfect Christmas gift storage solution here in the Vale.

'Surprises in Store' lets you bring down your Christmas gifts and store them with us safely and securely all for just a donation to the fantastic Sensory Bus project. Plus, this will give you the perfect secret hideaway to get them all wrapped up and under the tree by Christmas Eve!

At Masons Self Storage, we feel the Sensory Bus Project is a fantastic initiative that could really help children in the Vale and further afield in south Wales. The idea is to create a calm environment where people with learning disabilities and their families can come and relax.

However, there is still a little way to go to help Positive Interaction reach its goal of getting the bus on the road.

Remember, if you'd like to take part in #TGWBO , have any questions about the Cake Sale, email us at: TGWBO@masonsselfstorage.co.uk

Call us for more information on Surprises in Store or #TGWBO on 01446 700799 or pop in to see us to find out more about storing your Christmas surprises with us!

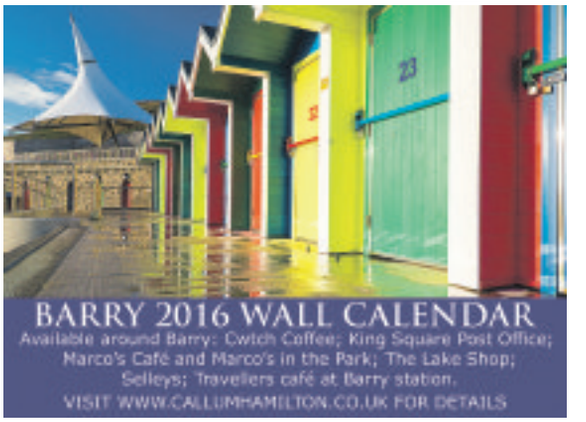
*For more information about Masons Self Storage visit the website www.masonsselfstorage.co.uk.*

# Welsh rugby star opens supermarket

***A LOCAL family was joined by Welsh rugby star Rhys Webb to formally open a new shop on Thompson Street in Barry.***

***Vale MP Alun Cairns was invited to the proceedings at the opening of the latest Filco store to join the other shops in Llantwit Major and Cowbridge. The rugby star signed autographs and posed for photographs at the packed store last week.***

***Mr Cairns said: "The opening of such a large store by Rhys Webb in Barry is a real boost for the area. It is great to see a local company continuing to invest in the Vale of Glamorgan."***



# Coping with Bereavement

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## AN EXPERT'S ADVICE CAN AVOID DISPUTES

**BRENDAN SWEENEY of David Prosser & Co Solicitors writes:**

It is estimated that 60 per cent of the UK population do not have a Will. A Will takes effect on your death and is an instruction as to what is to happen to your estate.

Probate disputes and challenges to Wills are becoming a growth area which often leads to substantial costs.

We now live in a world where family relationships are often very complex and expert advice regarding the drafting of a Will is essential. A professional advisor can also advise you in relation to inheritance tax and how you plan to minimise potential liabilities to inheritance tax

It is important when people make Wills that they are fully aware of their duties and financial responsibilities when they make a Will and ensure that they comply with the technicalities that are required to have a valid Will.

The cost of a professionally-drafted Will after taking advice is considerably less than the costs that can be incurred if there is a dispute regarding your financial affairs after your death.

Substantial costs can also be saved by taking professional advice early and putting in place Powers of Attorney whereby you appoint trusted people to make decisions about your property and financial affairs and health and welfare if your lose capacity.

The people appointed are made fully aware of their rights and responsibilities.

## Passmores will offer a sympathetic and efficient service to the bereaved

**WHEN a person dies, someone, usually a family member, has the responsibility of dealing with that person's estate.**

This may include establishing what assets and liabilities that person had and working out whether a 'Grant of Probate' will be needed to administer the estate. This is a daunting task under normal circumstances, but for many people may feel a great deal more burdensome mixed with feelings of grief and distress.

Usually the first thing to do is to establish whether there is a will in existence and to make a note of the fact that the estate is to be distributed in accordance with that will.

A will may be held with the solicitor that drew it up or in a safe custody box with a bank. A personal representative is usually appointed in the will to deal with the deceased person's estate, also known as an executor.

A Grant of Probate is issued by the Probate Registry, upon the submission of certain information based on the person's estate. It gives the personal representative authority to deal with the deceased person's estate and allows them to access money held in banks, building societies or other investments. It also authorises the personal representative to sell the deceased person's home.

Once all funds have been collected in and all commitments have been paid, the personal representative may distribute the estate to the beneficiaries as set out in the will, or if no will, then in accordance with the rules of intestacy, which are a set of rules setting out who is to benefit.

The personal representative may also have to deal with the payment of inheritance tax, if the estate exceeds the current threshold. Other responsibilities may include defending a claim against the estate, should this arise.

Passmores offers a sympathetic and efficient service when dealing with probate and estate administration.

*If you live or work in Barry, Cardiff or the Vale of Glamorgan and would like further information, then ask to speak to our specialist Carli Evans on 01446 721000 or ce@passmores.com today.*

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# Coping with Bereavement

GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

## VALID WILL CAN HELP EASE FAMILY SUFFERING

**THE death of a loved one can be a devastating and hugely stressful time. There are many administrative duties that have to be faced, like obtaining death certificates, but legal matters can generally be left for a while, perhaps until after the funeral, when it might be a better time emotionally.**

Ensuring that there is a valid Will is also very important, as this can make life much easier for family members.

Leaving written details of funeral arrangements is also very helpful. These can be left with family or friends or, indeed, with a solicitor.

There is no immediate timeframe within which the will needs to be read or the estate administration commenced, but there are time limits for payment of any tax, or if you wish to reorganise the affairs of the deceased after death.

*If in doubt, please contact either Joanna Fenoulhet or Laura Wishart of Glamorgan Law LLP, The Pavilion, 60 Eastgate, Cowbridge 01446 771742 for further advice.*


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## Support for the bereaved

**ARE you recently bereaved, or know someone who is? This very difficult time can be burdened even more by the loss of that someone special who was more than just a loved one!**

We are here to help in any way we can – from personal care and help at home – to escorting you on your daily activities.

April Complete Care Solutions have been authorised providers of care and home help for the Vale of Glamorgan and BCBC for many years.

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## Get peace of mind through expert advice

**WE all know that bereavement brings with it enormous stresses, the most significant, of course, being emotional.**

However, inevitably at just that time when we are most vulnerable, there are practical issues to be dealt with.

For example, a parent or other dependant may be left alone for the first time.

It may be necessary to consider arranging some kind of care package, or care alarm system.

If you would prefer that your loved one should be able to contact you in an emergency, or someone they know, rather than a stranger in a call centre, you could purchase at Ability the Auto Dial Panic Alarm, which connects to the landline telephone.

At a touch of the remote emergency button, which can be worn by your loved one as a pendant, the device will automatically dial your number, and enable a two way conversation.

You can program in several numbers so that if the first is engaged or unanswered, it will go on to dial the next. Please contact us for more details or see our web site.

At Ability, we stock a wide range of goods to assist independent living for people who find themselves coping alone.

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CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL SERVICE

Friday 25th December, 10.00am
CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord
Luke 2:11

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You have the comfort that your partner, dependants or other family members won't have to pay for our services included in the plan – it's all taken care of.

A funeral plan from Golden Charter provides complete peace of mind for you and your loved ones – and saves you money. You choose the funeral you want and pay for our services at today's prices, relieving your family of any worries and uncertainty at a difficult time.

Protect yourself against the rising cost of funerals.

Funeral costs have risen by 88 per cent over the past 10 years, largely due to third party costs which are outside of our control (Mintel 2014), such as fees for the crematorium or cemetery, doctors' and officials' fees. If this trend continues, the average funeral will cost over £6,800 by 2024 (Mintel 2014).

Paying in advance for your funeral is a sensible decision that will not only save you money but will also provide peace of mind, offering you an alternative to savings or insurance.

***A personal service from your local independent funeral director.***

When you are thinking about something as important as your funeral arrangements, it makes sense to talk directly to the experts – your local independent funeral director. Unlike some funeral planning companies who restrict your choices and limit you to 'set' plans, we'll take the time to discuss your requirements in detail and help tailor a plan to suit you.

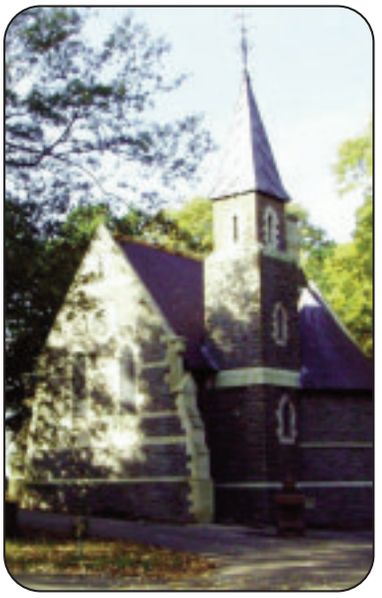
Enjoy complete peace of mind with a funeral plan from Golden Charter

*Please contact us at any time for further information or to make an appointment on 01656 860545.*

# Coping with Bereavement

GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

## Barry Town Council offers new service at Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery



*Merthyr Dyfan Chapel.*

**BARRY Town Council is offering a new service to the bereaved at Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery in the form of a 'Bios Urn'.**

The Bios Urn is a fully biodegradable urn designed to convert you or your loved one into a tree after life. The Bios Urn offers an alternative to the traditional interment of cremated remains of a loved one.

The Urn contains a seed which will grow to remember your loved ones. Bios Urn turns death into a transformation and a return to life through nature.

Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery is the first cemetery in Wales to offer this service and if you would like more information about the Bios Urn, please telephone 01446 704920, where staff will be happy to talk you through the process.

### Barry Town Council

**MERTHYR DYFAN CEMETERY**

Barry Town Council are now offering a new service: **BIOS URN**.

Fully biodegradable, designed to convert your loved one into a tree.

**Anyone requiring further information, please contact Barry Town Council on 01446 704920**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## Park Funeral Directors extend an invitation to their Christmas service

**PARK Funeral Directors will be hosting a Christmas Service of Remembrance at 4.30pm on Thursday, December 17 in King Square, Barry.**

This short service gives people of all faiths (or no faith) the opportunity to remember friends and family missing this Christmas.

In the past, guests have found these services to be a comforting way to remember their lost loved ones at this time of year when their absence can be particularly upsetting.

Everyone is invited to take part and place a commemorative tag in memory of their loved one, on our Christmas tree in the square and then join us over the road at our premises for a warm drink and a mince pie.

The tree and the dedicated tags will then feature in our window display over the festive period and can be added to at any time.

The service is open to all members of the public, not just the families we have helped, so we invite anyone who wants to take part to let us know, so we can prepare a tag in honour of their loved one, ready for them to place on the tree.

*Contact a member of our team on 01446 421212 or by emailing enquiries@parkfunerals.co.uk.*

## AG Adams & Son are there to guide you

**IT is a very sad fact of life that at some stage we will all be affected by bereavement.**

When bereavement occurs, one of your first contacts is your local funeral director.

For more than 100 years, staff from AG Adams & Son in Barry have been there to guide bereaved families in everything that is required to provide the perfect final journey for their loved ones.

Robert Fouracre, Funeral Director, is the son of Vera and the late Trevor Fouracre, well-known and respected funeral professionals in Barry.

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## Vale Funeral Service, not just in your community, but playing an active part in your community

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We are committed to providing a professional, personal and caring service to our bereaved families at all times.

We aim to give care and compassion in dealing with the bereaved family's requirements and appreciate that each funeral takes on a different role.

No two funerals are the same, as each loved one deserves a personal tribute.

It is a rare privilege to be a funeral director, to stand in a sensitive position at a crucial time in the midst of your family, knowing that the high standards of our service and our reputation will help you through the most difficult times in your lives.

As a husband and wife team, Lyndsay and Nicola Ellis are fully qualified and licenced funeral directors. Nicola is the only fully qualified and licenced female funeral director within Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan – so with our knowledge and experience, you can be assured of a service that is unique, professional and personal.

From the moment you contact us, it will always be 'Lyndsay and Nicola' that you will deal with and we will stay with you every step of the way during your difficult time.

All our staff are either fully qualified or have many years of experience. Our extensive knowledge affords us to give the correct guidance to families, friends and loved ones at their most difficult of times, maintaining the impeccable high standards that we are known for.


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# Coping with Bereavement

## Perfect memorial can be a lasting comfort to family

**CHOOSING a memorial in memory of a loved one can bring much comfort after bereavement.**

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Based at the top of Tynewydd Road hill in Barry, their large show-garden and showroom display many styles of memorials – they also provide unique, individual memorials to a client's own specifications.

The very helpful staff's considerable knowledge and experience helps navigate through the many rules and regulations relating to the local burial grounds, making it very easy to select the perfect memorial.

As a long established local business, they pride themselves on an unrivalled craftsmanship and being able to provide a personal memorial that perfectly commemorates the life of a loved one.

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# Young harpists set for concert

COWBRIDGE HARP SEPTET.

***A NUMBER of talented young people made up a group of harpists – all students at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, who were runners-up in the ensemble section at the recent Music in the Vale competition in Penarth.***

***They will now be invited to perform in a concert featuring the finalists to be held in All Saints' Church, Penarth, on January 24. Tickets available from S Taylor on 01446 781453.***

# LOTTERY WINNING POSTIE'S CHRISTMAS CHEER!

*ABOVE: Barry Postman Matthew Evans delivering festive treats to Ty Enfys Family Centre, Llanelli.*

**MATTHEW EVANS, the Lottery-winning postman from Barry, has helped a Llanelli charity get the festive season under way with a visit to Tŷ Enfys Family Centre, where he delivered gifts and helped spread Christmas cheer.**

Seven winners from across south Wales, with a combined fortune of over £8 million, pulled on their festive knits to visit the centre.

Matthew Evans from Barry joined Lyn Sexton and Ian Pearce from Merthyr, Meredith Davies from Llandeilo, Nigel Willets from Caerphilly and Barry and Yvonne Bradley from Llanelli, arriving at the centre laden down with treats for the volunteers and families.

Tŷ Enfys Family Centre in Llanelli received a £5,000 grant from the Big Lottery fund in September 2014 to fund a playhouse and a sand pit. This helps the centre provide outdoor active play and family fun sessions for families in the local area, which encourage exercise and a healthy lifestyle.

*Matthew Evans, who won £2.6m in July, said: "It is great to be able to visit Welsh charities who are doing such wonderful work to support their community. Christmas is such a special time and it means so much to be able to give something back."*

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www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

# Vale auctioneer helps charity to raise £40,000

**HERBERT R THOMAS (HRT) estate agents recently conducted an auction that raised more than £40,000 for Restart Africa.**

Andrew Thomas, director at HRT, and a qualified auctioneer, was the main auctioneer at the event, which took place in London, where over 200 people attended.

The chairman of the Rugby Football Union and former-England Rugby Union team captain, Bill Beaumont, was guest speaker at the event.

Restart Africa aims to provide a home, education, care and counselling to homeless children in Kenya, and looks after more than 100 children in a new orphanage which was opened in 2014 by the charity's founder Mary Coulson.

Mr Thomas said: "The Restart Africa charity auction was a fantastic event and it was incredible that we raised a staggering £40,000 for such a worthy charity.

"All guests were extremely generous and I'm sure the money raised will make a huge difference to the charity.

"I'm delighted that I was asked to be the auctioneer at the event as supporting charities is something that is very important to us all at HRT."

Alex Gooch who co-organised the event with Andrew Locke, said: "We couldn't have asked for a better auction and we were over the moon with everyone's generosity.

"We'd also like to thank Andrew Thomas for conducting the auction.

"His 30 years of experience as a qualified auctioneer really did show and it was one of the best auctions we've ever had."

HRT supports many charities by sponsoring events such as Mair's Walk in Bridgend, which raises money for Velindre, and by hosting Macmillan coffee mornings.

*ABOVE: Andrew Thomas of HRT, Bill Beaumont and Richard Waring.*

*THIS GLORIOUS VIEW OF THE KNAP GARDENS IS CALLUM HAMILTON'S AUGUST SELECTION.*

# Photographer captures ever changing scenes in Barry and on the Island

**BARRY photographer Callum Hamilton began taking images by pure chance and now immortalises both the town and the Island in his calendars.**

Callum explained: "I long held an interest in photography before coming to Barry, but it was something of a fluke that led to me doing prints and greetings cards of the local area, and in turn led me to do the calendar.

"I happened to be walking past the newly opened C-Break Cafe at the Knap Gardens when I noticed that the walls were bare and that I recognised the owners – they were the people from whom we had just the bought our house.

"That coincidence encouraged me to pop in and ask if they'd be interested in having some local photos on the walls. They asked to see some samples, liked what they saw and things progressed from there."

Callum was born and brought up in the London Borough of Bromley and first came to Wales in the 1980s.

He said: "I returned in 2000 to live in Barry and have been here ever since."

Although it is his fourth calendar, Callum always finds something new.

"One of the challenges is coming up with new perspectives of a familiar subject. I have been helped by the developments at Whitmore Bay which I think are most welcome and they appear in images for three months of the year as well as on the cover.

"I still enjoy photographing Barry throughout the year because it really does have some lovely places."

The calendar is available at Cwtch Coffee, 94 High Street; King Square Post Office, 160 Holton Road; The Lake Shop by The Knap Gardens; Marco's; Selleys, 4 Park Crescent and Travellers in Mind at Barry Station. For more information, go to *www.callumhamilton.co.uk*.

# Blanchett and Mara shine in Haynes' Carol

by GARETH JAMIESON

*Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk*

**PATRICIA HIGHSMITH'S books have found their way to the big screen predominantly through the Ripley series; however, a novel she wrote in 1952 under a pseudonym, *The Price Of Salt*, is the latest of her works to reach cinema screens, renamed *Carol*.**

It stars Cate Blanchett as the titular character, a married woman who meets a shop assistant named Therese (Rooney Mara) while out shopping; a chain of events sees them bump into one another again, and their meeting brings feelings and emotions to the surface as the pair slowly fall for each other...

The story of *Carol* is one that is suited to director Todd Haynes, who found a great deal of success in his Douglas Sirk-inflected *Far From Heaven* in 2004; that film dealt with a wife in the suburbs in the 1950s wrestling with her attraction to her black gardener, while dealing with her husband's homosexuality, not too far away from the story being told here.

In *Carol*, we are thrown headlong into a love affair that, given the time it is set, was forbidden in the extreme. Yet, however 'wrong' it may be there is no escaping the power and pull of love and bond these characters make, and Haynes and his cast execute it perfectly, the film aching with a sense of longing and secrecy.

There are few actresses plying their trade today who ooze 1950s glamour quite like Cate Blanchett, yet this is only one of many reasons to cast her in such a strong role.

In her hands the character of Carol shifts and stretches, the push and pull of the demands of the life she has and the life she wants wholly evident throughout.

In lesser hands, it could be played either too carefree or too flinty; with Blanchett, it slips between the two, yet never losing your sympathy, a woman doing what she can in testing circumstances.

Opposite her, Rooney Mara is truly exceptional. Her character of Therese is very much the focal point of the story as it is told from her point of view, and Mara handles the weight of this with aplomb.

Her character develops the most as the story unfolds, and is the one most affected by the development of her fledgling relationship with Carol, and she makes Therese a strong woman, caught up in the maelstrom of events.

While the relationship is key, the fall-out is also keenly felt, whether its Carol's husband (the excellent Kyle Chandler) searching for answers as to his wife's behaviour, or Therese's boyfriend struggling to comprehend why she's willing to leave it all behind to go on a road trip with a woman she knows little of.

All facets of the story are well-serviced, nuanced and feel vital, most keenly Carol's familial set-up as her young daughter struggles to comprehend just why her parents are no longer together.

Haynes' direction is measured and assured, a classy visual feel presenting the time but never losing sight of what's driving the story; it's less an exercise in nostalgia and more a snapshot of a time that seems unreal nearly 60 years later.

That *Carol* still delivers emotional impact, and lingers afterwards, is a testament to all involved.

**VERDICT:** A classy and assured piece of filmmaking, *Carol* is driven by two powerhouse performances from Cate Blanchett and Rooney Mara. A story of love and longing, it pulls you in and never lets you go in what is an immensely impressive effort from director Todd Haynes. *Highly recommended*.

**SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED**: *Brief Encounter* (1945), *Brokeback Mountain* (2005).

# A FAREWELL MESSAGE
## from Dr Dylan Jones

***Annwyl oll***

***YR wyf yn ddiolchgar i'r Gem am y cyfle hwn i ddiolch i rieni, staff, cydweithwyr a chyfeillion Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg am eu cefnogaeth ac arweiniad yn ystod y 16 mlynedd diwethaf. Ym mis Ionawr byddaf yn ymgymryd â swydd Deon Addysg ym Mhrifysgol Cymru Y Drindod Dewi Sant ac wrth wneud hynny mi adawaf ysgol sydd wedi bod yn rhan fawr o fy ngwaith a bywyd personol.***

*Cefais fy mhenodi yn Bennaeth cyntaf yr ysgol uwchradd cyfrwng Cymraeg newydd, fel y'i gelwid hi bryd hynny, ar ddiwedd y mileniwm diwethaf ac yn ystod y blynyddoedd a ddilynodd rydym wedi creu ysgol gyda'n gilydd sydd wedi bod yn lle arbennig i gymaint o bobl arbennig.*

*Roedd llawer o amheuwyr ar droad y ganrif, ond mae'r ysgol bellach yn cael ei chydnabod fel canolfan ar gyfer datblygu dysgu ac addysgu a chefnogaeth ysgol i ysgol drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg ar gyfer holl Gonsortiwm Canolbarth y De. Dros y 5 mlynedd nesaf bydd yn dyblu bron o ran maint oherwydd cymaint yw'r galw gan ddarpar rieni. Mae disgyblion o bob cefndir a gallu yn haeddu'r addysg a chyfleoedd bywyd gorau posibl. O ganlyniad i ymrwymiad ein staff rydym wedi sefydlu ysgol sy'n rhoi ei holl yn ddi-gwestiwn er mwyn sicrhau bod hyn yn digwydd.*

*Yr ydym wedi cael ein cyfnodau cyfnewidiol ac yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf mae digwyddiadau trasig wedi herio cyfansoddiad ein teulu yn yr ysgol hyd yr eithaf, ond mae cryfder ein perthynas wedi sicrhau ein bod wedi dod drwy'r cyfnodau anodd gyda'n gwerthoedd a'n gweledigaeth yn gadarn yn eu lle. Arwyddair yr ysgol yw, "Dyro dy law i mi ac fe awn i ben y mynydd," ac nid oes gennyf unrhyw amheuaeth y bydd cydweithwyr yn parhau i gynnig y llaw yma o gymorth i'n disgyblion a rhieni wedi i mi adael.*

*Yr wyf yn credu'n gryf yn y wireb fod "Yr arweinwyr gorau yn cydnabod nad nhw yw'r person mwyaf pwysig na'r person mwyaf deallus yn yr ystafell ar bob adeg" ac ni fyddai llwyddiant Bro Morgannwg wedi cael ei gyflawni heb ymrwymiad diflino unigolion o bob cwr o Fro Morgannwg. Diolch o galon i chi gyd.*

*Mae'r Fro yn lle arbennig ac mae ei phobl ifanc yn haeddu'r gorau.*

*Diolch yn fawr iawn i bawb.*

**Dr Dylan E Jones.**

**Dear all,**

**I AM grateful to The GEM for this opportunity to thank parents, staff, colleagues and friends of Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg for their support and guidance over the past 16 years.**

In January, I shall be taking up the post of Dean of Education at the University of Wales Trinity St David, and in so doing I leave a school which has been such a large part of my working and personal life.

I was appointed the first headteacher of the new Welsh medium secondary school, as it was known then, at the end of the last millennium and in the ensuing years together we have created a school which has been a special place for so many special people.

There were many doubters at the turn of the century but the school is now recognised as a centre for the development of teaching and learning and school-to-school support work through the medium of Welsh for the whole of the central south Consortium.

Over the next five years it will almost double in size because of the demand from prospective parents. Pupils of all backgrounds and abilities deserve the best possible education and life chances.

As a result of the commitment of our staff, we have established a school which gives its all without question to ensure that this is the case.

We have had our ups and downs and in recent years tragic events have tested the fabric of our school family to the limit, but the strength of our relationships have ensured that we have come through these difficult times with our values and vision intact.

The school's motto is "*Give me your hand and we shall go to the mountain top*" and I have no doubt that colleagues will continue to offer this hand of support to our pupils and parents after I have left.

I believe firmly in the maxim that "the best leaders recognise that they are not always the most important nor the most intelligent person in the room at all times" and the success of Bro Morgannwg would not have been achieved without the indefatigable commitment of individuals from all over the Vale.

A heartfelt thanks to you all.

The Vale is a special place and its young people deserve the best.

*Diolch yn fawr iawn i bawb.*

**Dr Dylan E Jones.**

# This year's 'Small Business Saturday was best yet' – Vale MP

**THE Vale MP, Alun Cairns, has described the third Small Business Saturday in the Vale as "the best yet".**

He spoke to a number of retailers in Llantwit Major, Dinas Powys and Cowbridge to gather feedback on weekend trade.

Afterwards, he commented: "Many streets in our towns were buzzing over the weekend, and campaigns like Small Business Saturday all serve to help boost our local high streets.

"I am fully supportive of any initiative that can boost the range of services on offer in our towns, and my feeling is that the third dedicated Saturday has proved successful for many areas."

# *'STOP these drivers!'*

**AS a resident at Lakin Drive I drive with fear every time I have to pass Liscombe Way, as the majority of drivers do not stop.**

**The council must do something quickly, before there is a fatality. We did mention this at the first meeting of the 'new' Neighbourhood Watch.**

**Please, please, Vale Council, do put up a 'STOP' notice!**

**M Howells, Barry.**

# PROPERTIES OF THE WEEK

## WHAT A BEAUTIFUL PLACE TO LIVE!

**The GEM has teamed up with local estate agents to provide you with a selection of homes in the area. When selling your home, don't forget to ask your estate agent to make sure your home is advertised within The GEM.**

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RICS

# Charlotte achieves career ambition

*RIGHT: Charlotte Fyfe from Barry has achieved her dream!*

**FULLY-QUALIFIED – and now living the dream – Charlotte Fyfe, 28, from Barry, has achieved her career ambition as a veterinary nurse via work based learning.**

Charlotte first started her career as a trainee on work placement at Barry Vets in Barry with ACT, Wales' leading training provider.

Charlotte said: "I absolutely love my job. I love working with animals and their owners and it's something that I have wanted to do since I was little.

"I'm so happy with my training choice. I really rate traineeships and apprenticeships. They are such a good idea and provide vital work experience to young people who do not have any experience or any thought of what they want to do. It also helps that you earn and learn on the job. To think I was going to go to university."

After successfully completing the traineeship, Charlotte's employers at Barry Vets were so impressed with her performance that they offered her a full-time job, which then allowed her to progress onto an apprenticeship and complete her veterinary nurse training.

Charlotte said: "I have been very lucky to have such great employers. Not only did they give me a chance by taking me on as a trainee, but they also offered me a job and supported me to continue my training to become a veterinary nurse."

Funded by the Welsh Government, a traineeship is a pre-apprenticeship training programme that prepares young people not otherwise engaged in education or employment. ACT offers 12 traineeships routes including animal care, business admin and beauty, and works with other 700 employers across Wales to delivery its apprenticeship programmes.

# Pupils pass first French test at Ysgol Gwaun y Nant

**IT was smiles all round at Gwaun y Nant Primary School in Barry as certificates and medals were presented to the first group of pupils to complete their French course.**

*Gwaun y Nant pupils with their French certificates.*

The pupils started studying the La Jolie Ronde course two years ago. They attend lunchtime classes once a week with teacher, Sian Elin Jones – or Madame Sian-El as she is known to her pupils.

Madame Sian-El said: "I'm very proud of everyone in the class. They have made excellent progress in French and are a joy to teach. Their enthusiasm for the language is wonderful and it's great to see them succeed. We'll now start on an advanced course which takes us on a tour of the different regions of France."

Rhydian Lloyd, headteacher at Ysgol Gymraeg Gwaun y Nant added: "I'm delighted that the pupils have done so well with their French lessons. It's great being able to offer them the chance to start French at an early age here at Ysgol Gwaun y Nant. Children generally enjoy learning languages and are happy to experiment with different language sounds and patterns.

"Well done to everyone on the commitment and motivation shown."

# *Tenovus cookery book launch*

***Barry Friends of Tenovus fundraising committee held a festive coffee morning on December 5, at Romilly Bowls Club.***

*A glass of bucks fizz and a mince pie were offered, along with the launch of their cookery book 'Cook with Us' featuring recipes from committee members, their family, friends and work colleagues, as well as well-known names.*

*The event was well attended, with a visit from Jane Hutt, AM. If anyone would like to purchase a copy of the cookery book, contact a committee member, details of whom can be found on the Tenovus website.*

*Tenovus Cancer Care aims to help prevent, treat and find a cure for cancer, offering support, to cancer patients and loved ones; as well as promoting healthy lifestyles.*

*Visit Tenovus website at: www.tenovuscancercare.org.uk*

# HIGH STREET'S SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY PROVES BIG SUCCESS

*Small Business Saturday took place on December 5 and as you can see it proved a huge success. A number of shop owners took stalls out on the street to get into the spirit of the day and feature their wares. The local Tenovus choir entertained the festive shoppers with carols and songs. Small Business Saturday aims to promote the benefits of shopping locally at independent outlets – something High Street in Barry is renowned for.*

## Pumphouse commended

**THE restoration of Barry's historic Pumphouse has been "highly commended" by the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) Cymru at its annual awards ceremony.**

The commendation was awarded jointly to developer DS Properties, planning consultants White Young Green and the Vale Council.

Simon Baston, managing director of DS Properties, said: "DS Properties is very proud of winning the RTPI award for the Pumphouse. This has been a very exciting project to be involved with and it gives me great personal pleasure seeing this important part of Barry's industrial heritage brought back to life."

## Library 'coding clubs' inspire

**LIBRARIES in the Vale are among the first in Wales to offer children's classes to develop their computer programming skills.**

The Code Clubs combine learning and enjoyment to help young people develop programming skills. The clubs are led by library staff who have received training from a nationwide scheme.

*Code clubs are currently running in Cowbridge, Dinas Powys, Llantwit Major and Penarth libraries and will soon start in Barry. Further information can be found online at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/libraries. More information on code clubs can be found at www.codeclub.org.uk.*

## WAR OF ATTRITION AS DINAS POWYS HANG ON FOR DRAW

**THE meeting between Dinas Powys and St Peter's earlier in the season ended in a 30-all draw, and a further 80 minutes of play could still not separate them on the scoreboard.**

The 'Villagers' will be the happier with the draw as they played into a strong wind in the second half and rarely looked like scoring during this period, spending the majority of this time in their own half.

The home side had the elements in their favour during the first half and failed to capitalise. The 'Rocks' dominated the early part of the contest and came close to scoring a try on several occasions, with only a crucial final pass going astray.

The home side were defending defiantly but a series of penalties, confusingly awarded against an advancing scrum, restricted them to playing within their own 22 and, although a series of rolling mauls resulting from lineouts were stoutly defended, the pressure eventually resulted in a try for the visitors as the ball was moved to the right swiftly from a maul to the right wing, who crossed for the opening score after 10 minutes. The Villagers enjoyed their best period of the game following the restart. The front row of Andrew O'Mallia, Luke Dyer and the redoubtable Caleb Robinson not only dominated the scrummaging contest but carried the ball with intent in open play.

A series of powerful driving lineouts by the home side saw Dyer crash over for the try that levelled the score at five-all after a quarter of an hour.

The remainder of the first half saw the home side play too much rugby in their own half, failing to use the gale on their backs to play in opposition territory.

The endeavour and commitment from both sides was huge but on a cold day on a windswept common there was little attacking rugby to warm the gathered crowd.

At half time, both sets of coaches tried to rally their charges, but with the Villagers playing into the wind the visitors from Cardiff were firm favourites to win the game, as the wind seemed to increase in strength.

The second half saw no further scores, the home side enjoyed a lot of possession deep in their own half with skipper Huw Thomas carrying the ball numerous times, supported by the wonderful back row of Lewis Dunleavy, Corey Imperatto and the tireless Ryan Shallish.

The visitors threatened but were repelled. The home side made a few breaks from their own half through centre Bryn Evans and wing Rhys Davies, but the dreary contest ended in near darkness with a scoreless second half.

**KEVIN REMEMBERED**

**Prior to the game, a two-minute silence was observed for Kevin Ryan: former player, touch judge and touchline-prowling supporter who sadly passed away earlier in the week following a short illness. All associated with Dinas Powys RFC extend their sympathies to his family.**

The Dingoes won 0-36 away at near neighbours Old Penarthians, going on a six-try rampage with captain Morgan Williams grabbing a brace and Tom Chapman, Ashley Wilson, James Walters and James Smith getting one apiece.

The victory was based on a firm foundation laid by the pack as Mike Jones, Tom Chapman and Lloyd Horwood teamed up again in the front row.

## Sully Sports Firsts beat bogey team

*Tongwynlais 12 Sully Sports 18*

**THERE was another cancellation for Sully Sports RFC last week as the second team's game away to St Peter's was called off, but the firsts built on their recent momentum with a hard fought away victory over their bogey team Tongwynlais.**

Conditions under foot were treacherous, and the strong wind and rain didn't help, so both teams played a tight, kicking game, only sparingly attempting to get the ball wide.

Captain Jon Blake led his pack by example and got the Sports' first try, with centre Adam Wheeler continuing his fine try-scoring form with another touchdown.

Co-centre Jake Williams slotted two penalties and a conversion, to seal an 18 – 12 win.

**Saturday, December 12** KO 2:30pm, 1st Xv home to Llanrumney and 2nd XV away to Barry,

**Saturday, December 19** Mallet Cup away to Cardiff Metropolitan.

## *Blue Bulls' debut*

**WALES Rugby League's domestic champions Bridgend Blue Bulls will be entering the Ladbrokes Challenge Cup for the first time in 2016.**

They will join the competition in the first round, and the draw takes place at Wembley Stadium on Thursday, January 7.

The Blue Bulls qualified for the competition after beating Aber Valley Wolves 34-30 in a thrilling Welsh Grand Final in August.

Thirty-six sides will go into the famous velvet bag to compete in one of the country's oldest tournaments and will form the first two rounds of the 2016 Ladbrokes Challenge Cup, which will be played on January 30 – 31 and February 13 – 14.

Nine winning teams from the second round will face teams from Kingstone Press League 1, including North Wales Crusaders and South Wales Scorpions, in the third round (February 27-28).

Stephen Smith, Bridgend Blue Bulls' team manager, said: "We are all excited for the draw. We are hopeful of a home draw but we will give a good account of ourselves wherever we are.

"It will be a great opportunity for our players and supporters to show that Rugby League is growing in the Bridgend county borough."

# HOMEWORK CLUB CELEBRATES ITS THIRD BIRTHDAY WITH FUN PARTY!

**THE Vale Parent/Child Homework Support Club celebrated its third birthday in August with a fun day at the Social Club Rhws.**

In August, 53 children enjoyed a fantastic day trip provided by the Aberthaw Cement Site.

The club has quadrupled in numbers this year from 24 to 96 children. It has filled 39 adult learning spaces with 16 adults continuing education to degree level with the Open University.

The club looks at the holistic picture of the family supporting with debt management, benefit checks and carer support mornings.

Hart 2 Heart counselling services provide a free counselling service on a Thursday afternoon supporting volunteers and parents.

Mrs Hayley Rees, our wonderful specialist teacher, won a federation 'Understanding Disability Award' as teacher of the year.

Sasha Williams celebrated the 'Understanding Disability Child of the Year' shared with Rhoose Primary School.

Sasha also won 'Young Volunteer of the Year' shared with Tegan Jones.

The club celebrated its annual awards on November 25, with over 200 people in attendance.

Seventy children were awarded trophies and recognition for different achievements, while six large trophies were introduced this year. Well done to all our children and adult learners.

The Teachers Shield went to Jack Davies presented by Hayley Rees.

The Jamie Adamson memorial shield went to Shanai Williams presented by Maria Thompson.

The Tarmac Child of the Year went to Dylan James.

The GVS Volunteers of the Year were Megan Harris and Natasha Lynch.

Solid Foundations Volunteers of the Year Chloe Watkins and Georgia Hayward.

Adult Learner of the Year was Joanne Lock.

We are very grateful to Elizabeth Brooks Warwick for presenting the awards and we are very grateful to our sponsors Tarmac, The JAM Fund, Rhoose Dental Surgery, Richard Jones Carpets and Rhoose Social Club.

Without their support we could not do what we do.

*The club is run solely by a dedicated team of 20 volunteers, who give many hours of their time to run this worthy club and charity.*

**CATHERINE WATKINS**

*Olive Davies receiving her award from Elizabeth Brooks Warwick.*

*ABOVE: Young Volunteers Sasha Williams and Tegan Jones.*

*ABOVE: The Teachers' award went to Jack Davies.*

*LEFT: Elizabeth of Solid Foundations with Georgia Hayward and Chloe Watkins.*

*LEFT: GVS Volunteer of the Year, Natasha Lynch and Megan Harris, presented by Claire Humphreys and the GVS team.*

*RIGHT: Dylan James, Tarmac Child of the Year.*

*ABOVE: Adult learner Joanne Lock presented by Rebecca Morgan (Vale Life Long Learning).*

*The class of 2015.*

*ABOVE: Jamie Adamson Memorial Shield winner Shanai Williams presented by Maria Thompson.*

MENTER IAITH BRO MORGANNWG

# Mynd am Dro yn y Fro

## GYDA DAI LINGUAL ...i'r Wig

**Gyrrwch – neu'n hytrach beiciwch – allan i bentref Wick a dyma i chi wrthgyferbyniad gyda Chaerdydd a'r Barri, dinas a thref fwyaf Cymru..**

Yn wir, mae'n gymaint o fyd gwahanol – a chwa o awyr iach – i gael pentref traddodiadol ei maint a'i gwedd wedi ei adeiladu o amgylch cae sgwâr yn ei chanol fel bod hi'n dra phoblogaidd ymysg ymwelwyr, tripiau ysgol a'r gyrrwyr dydd Sul fel petai.

Ble bynnag yr ydych yn byw yn y Fro, ceir yma gyfle i beidio teithio yn eich ceir ond yn hytrach cewch â'ch beic, gan taw tir seiclo gorau Cymru ydy hon, yn berchen iddi seiclwyr nid yn unig gorau'r Fro ond gorau'r byd – ie'n wir dyma'r pentref fagodd Nicole Cooke, y bencampwraig Olympaidd sydd wedi bod mor ffyrnig yn ymosod ar ddrwgweithredwyr ei champ yn sgil yr holl honiadau ofnadwy am gyffuriau a seiclo yn ddiweddar. Wrth gwrs, erbyn heddiw nid dim ond seiclo sydd dan y lach ond ta waeth am hynny, cewch â'ch cap a'ch menig seiclo gorau a'ch crys T melyn ac amdani! Dyma sut mae byw yn y Fro.

D.S. Rhag ofn eich bod yn meddwl fy mod i'n rhoi clod ar un o drigolion fwyaf enwog y Fro yn ddiangen, diweddariad gan Robin Goch S'ion Corn: sef yn ddiarwybod i'r cyfryngau traddodiadol a chyfoes, pan oedd Nicole Cooke yn bencampwr Olympaidd mi gafodd hi gais gan un o ysgolion Caerdydd yn un o wardiau mwyaf difreintiedig Caerdydd i alw draw gan eu bod ar daith ysgol i'r Wig. Gan fod Nicole yng nghanol ei hyfforddi y Bencampwriaethau Seiclo'r Byd, doedd hi ddim ar gael i gyfarch y plant, yn hytrach fe ofynnodd hi am enw pob plentyn yn y dosbarth a hela ffotograffau wedi eu harwyddo ganddi i bob un ohonynt – dyna waddol Olympaidd.

Ac mae'n ddrwg gen i, ystyr Wick – neu'r Wig fel galwyd y pentref hyd heddiw gan Gymry Cymraeg y Fro – coe-liwch fi neu beidio (dyna gliw!) yr un ystyr yn union â choedwig, er yn ddigon priodol efallai does dim gymaint â hynny o goed yna nawr. Mae'n siwr bod hynny yn wir am y Wick yn yr Alban a'r un ger Bryste hefyd...felly ydy mae hi yn mynd ar fy 'wick' i pan mae pobl yn honni nad oes fawr o Gymraeg wedi goroesi yn Saesneg!

Hyn oll i gyfiawnhau sôn am Yr As Fawr sef y pentref cyfagos. Hynny'n ddim byd i wneud â seiclwyr, am wn i!

*Pe baech chi â diddordeb mewn hanes enwau Cymru ac am gyfrannu hanesion neu enwau lleol, cysylltwch â mi david@cymunedau.org 02920 707 469 neu gyda Chymdeithas Enwau Lleoedd Cymru.*

# MENTOR CYMRAEG AM 5 MLYNEDD!

**Mae Eirlys Davies o Riwbina wedi bod yn fentor Cymraeg i Ann Simmons o'r Barri am bum mlynedd erbyn hyn.**

Cwrddon nhw mewn Noson Rhaglen Fentora a drefnwyd gan Ganolfan Cymraeg i Oedolion Caerdydd a Bro Morgannwg, Prifysgol Caerdydd yn ôl yn Rhagfyr 2010 ac ers hynny maen nhw wedi bod yn cwrdd o leiaf unwaith y mis i siarad Cymraeg.

Dwedodd Eirlys: "Dyn ni'n cyfathrebu mewn nifer o ffyrdd gwahanol – Dyn ni'n e-bostio'n gilydd, mynd i Sain Ffagan, mynd i siopa neu allan am bryd o fwyd. Dw i'n gweld Ann mwy fel aelod o'r teulu y dyddiau hyn! Mae wedi bod yn wych achos dw i wedi cwrdd â ffrindiau newydd trwy fentora Ann hefyd.

Dywedodd Ann: "Mae Eirlys yn ffrind mawr ac yn ysbrydoliaeth i mi. Ro'n i'n arfer bod yn eithaf nerfus pan o'n i'n cwrdd â hi ond dw i ddim o gwbl nawr, dw i'n siarad a siarad a does dim ots gyda fi os dw i'n gwneud camgymeriadau. Mae siarad â hi yn Gymraeg yn help mawr i fi ymarfer yr iaith".

Mae Canolfan Cymraeg i Oedolion Caerdydd a Bro Morgannwg wedi bod yn rhedeg y rhaglen fentora ers bron i chwe blynedd erbyn hyn ac wedi helpu nifer o ddysgwyr i wella eu Cymraeg trwy gynnig y gwasanaeth hwn iddynt.

Oes diddordeb gyda chi mewn bod yn fentor i ddysgwr Cymraeg? Os felly, cysylltwch â Glyn Wise ar wiseG3@cf.ac.uk / 029 2087 9226.

# CYMRODORION Y BARRI

**Yn anffodus oherwydd y gwynt mawr fe ohiriwyd ein cyfarfod ym Mis Tachwedd.**

Y newyddion da yw fod Gareth Thomas awdur y nofel boblogaidd 'A Welsh Dawn' ar gael i ymuno â ni ar Ragfyr 15fed. Felly dewch yn llu! Croeso cynnes i bawb. Festri Tabernacl Sgwar y Brenin y Barri am 7.15yh.

Ar Ionawr 19eg bydd noson ddifyr o frethyn cartref i ddathlu'r flwyddyn newydd.

# Yr Anrheg Nadolig Perffaith...Te Prynhawn!

**A hithe'n gyfnod hollol gwallgo o baratoi at yr ŵyl, dwi'n siwr bod ambell un yn dioddef cur pen.**

Dyw'r plant ddim yn broblem, diolch i'w llythyr Sion Corn, ond beth am gyfaill, neu riant, neu gymar? Wel, coeliwch neu beidio, mae gen i'r ateb am anrheg bach munud olaf – ac un i blesio ystod eang o'r boblogaeth!

Pa ffordd well o ymlacio na phaned o de? Beth am drefnu sesiwn chwaethus te p'nawn? Mae na rywbeth mor waraidd, mor foethus bron iawn, am y profiad o sawru te prynhawn. Mae na ddigonedd o opsiynau i'w cael ym Mro Morgannwg, ac am brisiau rhesymol dros ben. Lle gwell na'r Bontfaen am glonc gyda ffrind; mae'r Quater Penny Cafe ar hyd y Stryd Fawr –yn chwedlonol am weini paned a chacen. Tra yno'n ddiweddar fe flasais i'r deisen goffi fwyaf erioed – a cofiwch fod Tracey, y reolwraig, yn siarad Cymraeg.

Ond os am brofiad mwy gwledig – a heddychlon dros ben - mae Gwinllan Llannerch yn cynnig opsiwn o de pnawn am £15, neu £20 gyda glasied o fizz. Ond yn bersonol, dwi wrth fy modd â steil Fictorianaidd Penarth, sy'n cynnig chwa o awyr iach.

Ar achlysur fy mhen blwydd yn gynharach eleni, ges i anrheg hyfryd gan un o'm cyfeillion; triniaeth spa yng ngwesty moethus Holm House y dre, wedi'i ddilyn gan de prynhawn. Roedd yn ddiwrnod ffantastig, ymlaciol dros ben, â golygfeydd gwych dros yr Hafren islaw, ac ynysoedd Echni a Rhonech ar y gorwel. Fe ddychwelwn i mewn chwinciad i brofi'r sesiwn te p'nawn; mae'r prisiau'n amrywio o £6.95 i £16.50.

Os am brofi'r 'waw ffactor' dros de prynhawn, beth am drefnu bwrdd ym mwyty Jamesa Sommerin, ger y prom? Dyma chef sy'n anelu am seren Michelin, ac mae'r fwydlen faith yn sicr yn adlewyrchu hynny. Ynghyd â sgonsen, brechdannau, teisennau amrywiol a phastai cig – a'r dewis o Champagne lliw rhosyn neu Kir Royale - gewch chi lolipop go arbennig yn y fargen! (£20-£29)

Ond pan brofias i'r trawma o ffarwelio â'r ferch fu'n trin fy mop o wallt cyrls ers cantoedd, es i'n unswydd i Washington Tea Rooms Penarth. Prynais daleb gwerth £30, sef te prynhawn i ddau, i ddiolch iddi am ei holl waith dros y blynyddoedd. Ro'n i'n falch i glywed iddi fwynhau ei hun yn fawr yng nghwmni ei ffrind gorau hithau; cymaint, yn wir, nes y bu'n rhaid i mi brofi'r un ddêl, ac archebu'r te p'nawn yno dros fy hun!

Mae'n gaffi hynod braf, yn yr adeilad Art Deco lle y bu Oriel Washington am gyhyd. Mae celf dal ar ddangos ar y waliau heddychlon, tra fod yr oriel ym Mhafiliwn Penarth erbyn hyn. Mae'r dewis o goffi a the yn ddi-ddiwedd yno, ac mae te Nadolig – â blas ffrwythau a sinamwn - ar gynnig yno trwy'r flwyddyn . Ond dewis traddodiadol wnes i yn y diwedd; paned hyfryd o de Iarll Llwyd.

*Te prynhawn yn y Washington Tea Rooms, Penarth.*

Asiodd y blas trawiadol bergamot gyda fy newis o deisen; cacen sinsir, sy'n addas i figaniaid. Ces i hefyd dair brechdan, a sgonsen sylweddol, jam mefus a hufen tolch. Rhaid canmol cyfuniadau cyfoes a thymhorol y brechdannau, fel cyw iâr a phesto berwr. Ond gyda diwrnod o rybudd, gall y gegin baratoi blasau fydd at eich dant , neu'ch deiet arbennig chi.

Er cymaint o bleser ges i ar fy mhen fy hun, mae te prynhawn yn well byth mewn cwmni. Felly cofiwch, wrth archebu, i brynu tocyn ychwanegol i chi'ch hun, er mwyn mwynhau'r anrheg Nadolig gyda'ch gilydd.

**Washington Tea Rooms, 1-3 Adeiladau Washington, Heol Stanwell, Penarth CF64 2AD; 029 2070 9158**

**LOWRI HAF COOKE**

# Mamau y Barri yn mwynhau dysgu Cymraeg

**Mae grwp o famau wrth eu boddau yn dysgu Cymraeg yng Nghanolfan Flying Start, Gladstone.**

Mae aelodau'r grŵp sydd yn dysgu Cymraeg i'w plant wedi cymryd mantais o'r gostyngiadau sydd ar gael i bobl sy'n byw mewn ardaloedd difreintiedig. Dwedodd Jess Edwards, sy'n mynychu'r dosbarth sy'n cael ei redeg gan Canolfan Cymraeg i Oedolion Caerdydd a Bro Morgannwg:

"Mae'r dosbarth hwn yn dda achos dyn ni'n cael llawer o hwyl wrth ddysgu ac mae pawb yn y dosbarth yn hyfryd".

Mae Canolfan Cymraeg i Oedolion yn cynnig nifer o ostyngiadau a chonsesiynau ynghyd â system talu mewn rhandaliadau dros 3 mis. Os hoffech chi ddysgu mwy am y gostyngiadau sydd ar gael pan yn dysgu Cymraeg ewch i www.learnwelsh.co.uk/discover

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00PM 16 December 2015**

Vale of Glamorgan Council | Hafod Housing Association | Newydd Housing Association | United Welsh | Wales and West Housing Association

homes4u HOTLINE 01446 709840

To apply call the hotline, e-mail us at
**HOMES4U@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk**
or apply in writing to:
**Vale of Glamorgan Council**
Visible Services and Housing
Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or
**Newydd Housing Association**
121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

## AVOCET COURT, BARRY

*H4U Reference 120446*
**Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement**
- Two-bed first floor flat
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Parking

**Rent £84.75** per week including service charges

## BARRY ROAD, BARRY

*H4U Reference 201410*
**Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement**
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

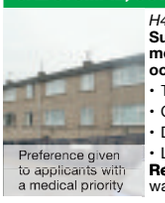
**Rent £108.89** per week including water charge

## BUTTLEE COURT, BARRY

*H4U Reference 1042031*
**Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement**
- Three-bedroom flat
- Second floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

**Rent £98.86** per week

## CAE STUMPIE, COWBRIDGE (2)



Preference given to applicants with a medical priority

*H4U Reference 229967*
**Suitable for over 55's or meeting the maximum occupancy requirements**
- Two-bedroom GF flats (2)
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Level access shower/alarm

**Rent £96.38** per week inc. water and alarm charges

## CAERNARVON GARDENS, BARRY

Preference given to applicants with a medical priority

*H4U Reference 203535*
**Suit. for a single person or couple over 40 – no pets**
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Communal gardens

**Rent £90.69** per week **including water charge**

## CAWLEY PLACE, BARRY

*H4U Reference 204383*
**Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement**
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

**Rent £108.10** per week

## DOCK VIEW ROAD, BARRY

*H4U Reference 1115997*
**Suitable for a single person or couple**
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

**Rent £83.69** per week **including service charges**

## DYLAN CRESCENT, BARRY

*H4U Reference 208432*
**Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement**
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

**Rent £101.77** per week **including water charge**

## FAIROAKS, DINAS POWYS

*H4U Reference 231099*
**Suitable for a single person or couple over 60**
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

**Rent £102.03** per week including warden and water charges

## GEORGES ROW, DINAS POWYS

*H4U Reference 231312*
**Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement**
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

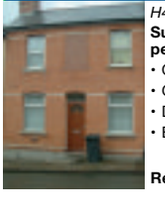
**Rent £110.85** per week including water charge

## GLADSTONE ROAD, BARRY

*H4U Reference 210095*
**Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement**
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

**Rent £106.63** per week including water charge

## HARVEY STREET, BARRY



*H4U Reference 981890*
**Suitable for a single person or couple**
- One-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Enclosed rear garden

**Rent £81.21** per week

## IRVING PLACE, BARRY

*H4U Reference 213164*
**Suit. for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement – no pets**
- Two-bedroom flat
- Second floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

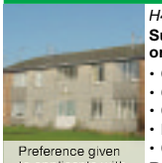
**Rent £89.20** per week including water charge

## NEALE STREET, BARRY

*H4U Reference 217641*
**Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement**
- Two-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

**Rent £106.47** per week including water charge

## PARKLAND WALK, BARRY

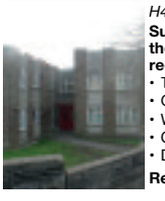


Preference given to applicants with a medical priority

*H4U Reference 219479*
**Suitable for a single person or couple over 55**
- One-bedroon flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Community alarm

**Rent £97.61** per week inc water & warden charges

## PENDINE CLOSE, BARRY



*H4U Reference 219649*
**Suit. for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement – no pets**
- Two-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Water meter
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

**Rent £76.65** per week

## PETERSWELL ROAD, BARRY

*H4U Reference 220600*
**Suitable for a single person or couple over 55 – no pets**
- One-bedroon flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Community alarm

**Rent £95.98** per week

## PHILIPPA FREETH COURT, BARRY

*H4U Reference 122298*
**Suitable for a single person or couple over 55 – no pets**
- One-bedroom GF flat
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Scheme Co-ordinator
- Communal gardens

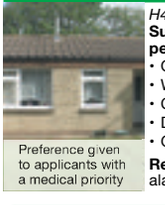
**Rent £111.57** p.w. inc service charges and water rates

## POWIS VIEW, BARRY

*H4U Reference 1005590*
**Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement**
- Two-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

**Rent £96.72** per week including water charges

## PROCTOR CLOSE, BARRY



Preference given to applicants with a medical priority

*H4U Reference 221927*
**Suitable for a single person or couple over 55**
- One-bedroom bungalow
- Water meter
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

**Rent £104.54** per week inc. alarm and warden charges

## ST GARMON ROAD, PENARTH

*H4U Reference 1075010*
**Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement**
- Two-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Enclosed rear garden

**Rent £87.10** per week including service charge

## STEWART ROAD, RHOOSE

Preference given to applicants with a medical priority

*H4U Reference 248042*
**Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement**
- Two-bedroom GF flat
- Level-access shower
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

**Rent £91.96** per week including water charges

## WEST WALK, BARRY

Preference given to applicants with a medical priority

*H4U Reference 227610*
**Suitable for a single person or couple over 55**
- One-bedroom bungalow
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Community alarm

**Rent £102.96** per week including warden and water charges

## WILLIAMS CRESCENT, BARRY

*H4U Reference 228262*
**Suit. for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement– no pets**
- Two-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

**Rent £89.20** per week including water charges

**You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes.**
When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference.
All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness.
Newydd is a charitable housing association.

**Are you a council tenant who has been affected by the bedroom tax?**

Would you like to discuss the options available to you?
If so, call our Money Advice Line on 01446 709312 for constructive, impartial advice.
This number is not a bidding line for properties in this advert.

Visit the HOMES4U web page to view immediately available homes
www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

# SEASON'S WINNERS ARE FETED ON WENVOE CASTLE TROPHY EVENING

*LEFT: Lady champion Jane Lott with lady captain Barbara Beedham.*

*RIGHT: Club champion Keith Stimpson with club captain Chris Jones.*

*BELOW: Morgan Williams Bowl winners Dr Dai and Sue Dayananda with Chris Jones.*

*ABOVE: Whitecup Foursomes winners Sheila Morrow and Helen Hughes (left) with lady captain Barbara Beedham.*

*RIGHT: Robert Rickards Trophy winner William Harrington with Chris Jones.*

*BELOW: Viv Jones Tankard winner Chris Hicks with Chris Jones.*

*ABOVE: Thomson Salver winner Denise Lloyd with lady vice captain Sandra Hathway.*

*RIGHT: Coronation Cup winner Russell Owens with Chris Jones.*

*ABOVE: Whiteflower Cup winners Brian and Judy Green with Chris Jones.*

*ABOVE: 75th Anniversary Cup winners Nigel Parry and John Pulsford (left) with Chris Jones.*

**WENVOE Castle Golf Club presentation night is a highlight in the calendar when members gather to see the winners of the various club competitions receive their well-earned trophies.**

Club champion Keith Stimpson was delighted to receive his trophy from club captain Chris Jones and gave praise to the runner-up Nick Grimmitt for a match played in an excellent spirit.

Keith also took the opportunity to thank the head greenkeeper and the green staff for presenting the course in superb condition, not only on the day but throughout the year.

He was especially pleased to receive a magnificent clock as a memento, to be placed on the mantelpiece of his new home when he and his wife move to the village of Wenvoe in the near future.

Lady champion Jane Lott received her trophy from the lady captain Barbara and similarly paid tribute to the runner-up Lesley Sherrard for a great match, the result of which could have gone either way. As a relatively new member, Jane thanked the club and particularly the ladies' section for the way in which she had received a warm and friendly welcome since joining.

There was a glittering display of silverware and once again vice president Colin Champ showed considerable stamina in announcing the winners, and in total 37 trophies were presented for the various men's, ladies' and mixed competitions.

The club captain Chris Jones thanked all the members who had supported the competitions and paid tribute to the efforts of the green staff. He also thanked the bar and catering staff for the excellent service on the evening, with a special appreciation of the efforts of Julie Staples who had diligently polished each and every trophy on display.

### Club Championships

Club Champion, Mr Keith Stimpson; runner-up, Mr Nick Grimmitt; Lady Champion, Mrs Jane Lott; Runner-up, Mrs Lesley Sherrard.

### Ladies' competitions

Blod Lewis Cup, Mrs Jill Rodgers; M Moss Memorial Shield, Mrs Candice Peterson; Thompson Salver, Mrs Denise Lloyd; Committee Cup, Mrs Barbara Beedham; Seniors Cup, Mrs Cecile Doody; White Cup Foursomes, Ms Sheila Morrow and Ms Helen Hughes; Mary Fellows Bowl, Ms Sheila Morrow; Bronze Division Champion, Ms Sheila Morrow; Handicap Oscar, Ms Barbara Beedham; Coronation Cup, Mrs Linda Marples; Laurie Jones Shield, Mrs Jane Lott and Mrs Judy Green.

### Gentlemen's Competitions

Committee Cup, Mr Les Lockwood and Mr Jeff Elmes; LG Fellows Tankard, Mr Nigel Parry; Palmer Cup, Mr John Dudley; Autumn Tankards, Mr Andre Le Roux and Mr James Hegarty; Dai David Putter, Mr Andre Le Roux; Viv Jones Tankard, Mr Chris Hicks; Celnik Cup, Mr Keith Stimpson; Captain's Shield, Mr Darren Jeffries; Coronation Cup, Mr Russell Owens; 50th Year Cup, Mr Rhys Ivory and Mr Andrew Tailby; Renwick Seniors Trophy, Mr Jerry Carter; Robert Rickards Cup, Mr William Harrington; H Regan Foursomes, Mr Daniel Williams and Mr Rhys Ivory; Hales Cup, Mr Paul Wheatley; Dragon Trophy, Mr Lloyd Konten-Slomon.

### Mixed Competitions

Vaughan Thompson, Mrs Sue Macpherson and Mr Gordon Macpherson; Morgan Williams Bowl, Mrs Sue Dayananda and Dr Dai Dayananda; Cupid Cup, Mrs Linda Marples and Mr Tom Marples; Ashton Trophy, Ms Delyth Thomas and Mr Bobby Woodruff; Whiteflower Cup, Mrs Judy Green and Mr Brian Green; H Broadbent Trophy, Mrs Linda Hudd and Mr Jeff Hudd; Bowen Greenwood, Ms Nicola Sims and Mr Simon Gatheridge; Dr and Mrs A M Jones Trophy, Ms Nicola Sims and Mr Jeff Plevey; President's Bowl, Mr Steve Grinter; 75th Anniversary Cup, Mr Nigel Parry and Mr John Pulsford.

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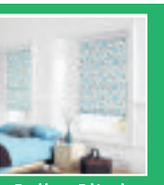
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## Public Notice

**PUBLIC NOTICE LICENSING ACT 2003 TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

I Richard Norris do hereby give notice that I have applied to the licensing authority (Vale of Glamorgan Council) for the grant of a premises license at Glyndwr Vineyard, Llanblethian, Cowbridge CF71 7JF known as Glyndwr Vineyard.

The application is for sale of alcohol 08.30 - 23.00 (Monday to Saturday) and 10.30 - 22.30 (Sundays).

Any persons wishing to make representations to this application may do so in writing to the licensing department, Vale of Glamorgan Council Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry. CF63 4RU, not later than 28 days after the date of this notice. Representations received after this date will not be considered. A copy of the application can be viewed at the Civic Offices during normal office hours. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application, the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5000.
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## Birthdays

*Isla Bailey*

HAPPY 70th BIRTHDAY
JEN BAKER
on 10 December
HAVE A LOVELY DAY
*Lots of Love*
Darren, Sue, Joe, Abi and all the family xxxx

*Sue Humphries*
*(née Rees)*
*Happy 60th Birthday*
*for December 10*
**Have a nice day!**
**All my love, Mam. xxx**

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## Family Notices

### REES
### David John

**Passed away peacefully on November 30 at Holme Tower, Penarth. David, much loved husband of Margaret and loving father of Andy, Philip, Helen, Steve and step-daughter Jill. Father-in-law to Chrissy, Sarah and Martin. Devoted grandad to Ben, John, Emma, David and brother to Carol.**

Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend on Friday, 11 December at 2.15pm. Family flowers only, all donations to Marie Curie, Holme Tower, Penarth.

### HUGHES
### Albert William

**Passed away peacefully on November 30 at his home in Rhoose surrounded by his family, aged 83 years. Albert of Beach Cafe, Llantwit Major. Beloved husband to the late Aerona, much loved father to Albert, Maria, Michael, Angela and the late Dennis. Devoted bampi to Sean, Zak, Ryan, Brandon and James. Respected father-in-law to Dave, Russell and Sharon. A much loved character by all that knew him.**

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Friday, December 11. Service and cremation 1.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. Family flowers only.

Donations in lieu, if desired to Stroke Foundation c/o J. James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

### HILL
### Doreen Angela

**Peacefully on December 2 at Llandough Hospital, Doreen Angela (Do), aged 81 years of Jenner Road, Barry. Beloved wife of the late James. A loved mother of Allan, Tony, Angela, Stephen and Wayne. Loving mother-in-law. Cherished grandmother and great grandmother.**

***Do will be sadly missed by all of her family and friends.***

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until the funeral on Wednesday, December 16, service in the chapel at 11.30am, afterwards interment at Barry Cemetery at 12.30pm. Family flowers only if desired, donations may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral for Macmillan Cancer Support.

### MORGAN
### Brynmor Wensley

**Peacefully on November 30 at The University Hospital of Wales, after a long courageous fight, Bryn, well known former lecturer of Barry College. Devoted Husband of the late Val, much loved Dad of Nick & Kim, special Father-in-Law of Heather and John, cherished Grampy to all his Grandchildren, loving Brother of Gwyneth.**

***He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.***

Bryn is being cared for by Lyndsay Ellis at The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at their Windsor Road Chapel, (opposite the Mount Sorrel Hotel) on Monday, December 14 at 2pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry.

Family flowers only, donations if desired may be made at the service or via Bryn's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk to support the Alzheimers Research UK.

### TROTMAN
### Joy

**It is with great sadness we announce the quiet and peaceful passing of Joy, aged 81 years on December 2 at the Princess of Wales Hospital. Joy, widow of the late Les of Heol Y Mynydd, Ogmore by Sea. She was a much loved and loving Mum to Rachel, Sarah and Judith. A proud Nanna to her seven grandchildren and doting Great Nanna Joy to her six Great Grandchildren.**

***She will be greatly missed by all her family and friends including her two sisters, Wendy and Freda.***

Funeral service will be held at the Gospel Hall, Minerva Street, Bridgend on Wednesday, December 16 at 11am, before burial at the churchyard at St Brides Major. Flowers may be sent to J.R. & M.F. David, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major, CF32 0SB. Enquiries to 01656 880308.

### CAHUSAC
### Barry

**Passed away peacefully on December 7 at Llandough Hospital – Barry, well known for his time as a fireman. Much loved dad to Jodie and Jon, respected father in law of Paul and Ilsa. A loving papa Barry of Ben and Lily. Loved brother to Tina and Heather.**

***Barry will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved him.***

Resting at The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry, until his service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry on Friday, December 18 at 2pm. Family flowers only - donations if desired may be made at the service or via Barry's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk to support The Noahs Ark Childrens Hospital For Wales. Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 01446 407962.

### FORD
### Graham

**Peacefully at UHW Cardiff on December 2. Graham aged 78 years, of Phillipa Freeth Court, Barry. Graham will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.**

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son until the funeral service on Tuesday, December 15 at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium at 2pm. Family flowers only donations in lieu if so desired for Ty Hafan c/o the funeral director.

### COELHO
### Christina

**Suddenly on December 5 at the University Hospital of Wales, Chrissy, aged 53 years and well known within Penarth, sadly passed away. A loving daughter to Anthony, much loved sister of Alun, Tony, Maria, Teresa, Linda, Angela and their families.**

***She will be greatly missed by all her family and many friends***

Chrissy is being cared for by Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Friday, December, 18 at 11am.

Floral tributes may be sent to the funeral home or if desired, donations may be made at the service to Kidney Research UK in memory of Chrissy.

# Rhoose Lifeguards hold presentation evening

**ANOTHER busy year of competitions and events has come to a close for the competitors, families and supporters associated with Rhoose Lifeguards Club.**

The club celebrated the many successes over of 2015 at its end of season club AGM and presentation evening. With a disco following, everyone enjoyed a social get-together to reflect on the year's activities and achievements.

A number of awards were presented with the following members from the Nipper, Junior, Senior and Masters age categories taking home a trophy:

*Best first year Junior - Brooke Peterson; Most Improved Paddler - Millie Wiggins; Best Junior - Declan Ewington; Lifeguard of the Year – Kelsea Peterson; Winner of the Toudic Cup – Rhys Gardner; Winner of the Nipper Toudic Cup Race - Ben Ewington.*

*The Kevin Rowlands Trophy for individual performances at the Welsh & GB events – Heddus Davies; The Sarah Thompson award for best performance across the beach events – Heddus Davies; The Margaret Cooper Award for outstanding work for the club – Simon Perry; Most Improved Nipper Boy – Cai Beasley; Most Improved Nipper Girl – Xantia Hobrough; Most Enthusiastic Newcomer Boy – Ethan Harding; Most Enthusiastic Newcomer Girl - Molly Bevan.*

*Nippers' Nipper Award – Evie Wong; Special Award for Outstanding Performance – Evie Wong; Outstanding Award Runner Up – Alice Connelly; Overall Nipper Award – Booke Peterson, Ethan Wall & Cian Davies.*

As well as the individual awards many have achieved so much this year within the disciplines associated with surf lifesaving. In particular on ski, where Rhoose won the under-14, under-16 and under-19 ski, both male and female, at the Welsh Championships – well done to Declan, Jason, Alex, Millie, Ellie and Kelsea.

Also special congratulations to Kelsea Peterson who won the Ladies Seniors Board race at the age of 16. Well done Kelsea!

Moving to the European Championships as Wales hosted the European Seniors and Club Championships at Swansea and Aberavon; Rhoose had a small team competing in the club events. Well done to Dominic, Alex, Kelsea and Lauren.

Well done also to Karen who competed at the European Masters Championships in Spain and picked up a number of medals including a European Masters Board Champion medal.

In terms of team success, overall the club did extremely well with Rhoose winning the annual ski race, the Junior team winning the Welsh Championships as well as the Rhoose Junior Carnival.

The Nippers also had a great year, jointly winning the Welsh Stillwaters as well as winning the Mumbles & Whitmore Bay Carnivals.

Many individual members were presented with surf lifeguard and surf lifesaver awards, Junior, Master and Ski Competence Awards.

Last month Rhoose were also presented with the Super Club with the Nippers winning the Welsh Stillwaters as well as the MumbTrophy, an award based on all of the results from all age groups at the Welsh pool and ocean championships. Rhoose Nippers were also awarded the Nipper Club of the Year Award.

Aside from the competition element to the the club, Rhoose Lifeguards are involved in many aspects within the community. This year members covered voluntary lifeguard patrols at Fontygary amounting to over 250 man hours of time over the summer months.

Rhoose also provided water safety cover for the first Cardiff Triathlon in June with 25 members involved.

Finally we had six members representing the Welsh team this year – Finn, Alex, Kelsea as girls captain, Ellie and Lauren and Tanara at the Senior event.

Of course the success of the club is down to everyone involved. A big thanks also to all the coaches and helpers that give of their time each week – coaching, training, towing trailers – organising events and competitions, helping out at events, organising clothing and kit, raising funds and taking their children to the various events.

Well done to everyone and thanks again for all of your support throughout the year.

**JF**

## Articles For Sale

**ADVERTISE HERE** £12 inc. VAT - box for 2 weeks. To take advantage of this offer simply either send in your description along with a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to 'The Glamorgan GEM' at The GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or telephone us with your wording by 12 noon Tuesday. All major credit cards accepted. Tel 01446 774484. Advert must contain a residential land line telephone number. You may alter your advert as items are sold. **Sorry no refunds are given.**

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# End of year awards at St Athan Golf Club

*Craig Sherman and Erin Allison.*

*A special award for Jon Pengelly.*

*Club president Paul Lindsay and club captain Taff Edwards.*

**ST ATHAN Golf Club recently held its presentation evening with nearly £4,000 worth of crystal being awarded to members who had triumphed in various competitions played throughout the season.**

The chairman of play, Gary Bohun, conducted the proceedings with the club captain, Taff Edwards, ladies' captain Carolyn McKenzie and club president Paul Lindsay presenting the trophies to the worthy winners.

The most sought-after trophies are undoubtedly the junior, ladies and club championship titles. Gareth Brookes and Josh Morgan must be congratulated for the way they conducted themselves throughout their match. They produced some tremendous shots and it was unfortunate that there could only be one winner; Josh Morgan was delighted to take the Junior Championship title.

No stranger to playing in the ladies' final, Erin Allison was hoping to add this year's title to the 2012 and 2013 that she already held. Erin was up against last year's champion Michelle Bligh and after a well-fought battle, Michelle graciously relinquished her Ladies' Champion crown to Erin.

There was rapturous applause from the floor for both Chris Bacon and Craig Sherman; the club championship competitors. Chris, playing for the first time in the final of this competition, was up against Craig who already had his name on the competition board on two previous occasions. Craig propelled himself into an early lead, maintained the advantage and ensured that his name would appear again – Club Champion 2015.

As well as the trophies, there are two awards that are presented annually to individuals who, in the opinion of the committee have fulfilled certain criteria.

The first, The Elderflower Salver, goes to the junior who always tries their hardest, shows extreme dedication, conducts themselves impeccably and is a pleasure to have in the junior section.

The second is the Kyle Trophy, presented to the club member who has achieved a significant handicap reduction, achieves a great deal of success in all competitions entered and who sets a good example both on and off the course.

Louie John and Steph Bonnar were ecstatic when their names were announced as the Elderflower Salver and Kyle Trophy recipients respectively.

The club captain congratulated all winners, supporters and every member who had competed throughout the year before announcing that Stu Jennings is this year's club-person of the year for the invaluable contribution he makes in ensuring that the correct information is published for the weekly competitions.

The clubhouse members erupted into laughter when Simon Hampson was presented with a caricature trophy of Jon Pengelly; after striking Jon's head with a golf ball earlier in the year Simon most certainly deserved 'shot of the year'!

The evening culminated in the president acknowledging the people concerned with organising another memorable presentation evening.

*St Athan Golf Club is a members club which caters for green fee players but particularly welcomes new playing members. For further information contact the club manager on 01446 751043.*

**CM**

*ABOVE: Club championship competitors, Chris Bacon and Craig Sherman.*

*RIGHT: Club-person of the year, Stu Jennings.*

# School's rugby stars impress!

**COWBRIDGE Comprehensive School's year-7 rugby team played Stanwell Comprehensive on November 26 in the third round of league fixtures.**

With a number of pupils playing only their first or second game of rugby for the school, it was an excellent opportunity to show their skills and the things they had learnt since the start of the year.

Cowbridge started extremely well, with the pack providing outstanding service for scrum half Rhys Pritchard.

With this quick ball, Cowbridge were passing the ball around, illustrating excellent skills for such a young group of players.

For the first try, about seven pairs of hands touched the ball across the line before Rhys Hardman sprinted up the wing and touched the ball down over the whitewash. A safe conversion was made by Harry Treharne to secure the extras.

Cowbridge continued this pressure straight after the restart, with Ruben Davies and Paddy Kennedy proving to be a formidable force in the centre and causing all sorts of problems for the defence.

Before too long, Cowbridge had added another 14 points to their tally, courtesy of two strong runs from Ruben Davies and Will Stancombe, with the conversations expertly executed again by Harry Treharne.

Stanwell were producing some excellent moves and phases of play themselves, but hard-hitting tackles from Akka Guwy, Robbie Brown and Aaron Holcombe were keeping them at bay.

Before the end of the half Ruben Davies increased his tally to three and Paddy Kennedy went over for an excellent try himself, with a few dummies which Barry John would have been delighted with.

The first half ended and the score was 36-0 to Cowbridge.

The game proved to be a tale of two halves, with Cowbridge taking their foot off the throttle after the break and Stanwell putting theirs flat to the floor. Other teams would have dwindled away, but to their credit Stanwell fought back.

The home side's defence had solidified and Cowbridge were finding it difficult to fully penetrate their line.

Stanwell, on the other hand, were finding gaps in the Cowbridge defence that had been slammed shut in the first half, but were now opening through continued pressure.

Stanwell put up a valiant effort in the half, but could not pull the score back enough.

The game finished 36-15 to Cowbridge, with Stanwell getting three consolation tries before the final whistle.

Well done year-7, the first half performance was as good as I have seen from a year-7 rugby team. We need to ensure we perform for the full 50 minutes, but that will come with experience.

Keep up the hard work in training, and more wins will come – well done again!

**SD**

# Santa visits the Ninjas

**THE Ninja Kids students at JSTKD Martial Arts & Fitness were treated to a surprise visit from Santa at their winter Tae Kwon Do graduation held at Penarth Leisure Centre.**

Prior to the arrival of their festive guest, the most junior martial artists in the school put on an impressive display for proud family members and friends.

The Ninja Kids programme is specifically designed for this age group, with lessons taking place in a structured and welcoming atmosphere.

The arrival of the man in red prompted the excited Ninjas to take the opportunity to show him their certificates and new belts – while sneaking in a few Christmas list requests at the same time.

Santa rounded off his visit by rewarding the Ninjas for their hard work by handing out selection boxes to everyone who took part.

*For more details visit www.jstkd.co.uk.* **VW**

# POINT-TO-POINT 'BLAST FROM THE PAST' – AND 1925

BY BRIAN LEE

**NINETY years ago in 1925 the Glamorgan Hunt held its annual point-to-point steeplechases at Pantlladron Farm, Stalling Down, near Cowbridge and large posters were put around the course warning punters to beware of bookmakers who took bets and disappeared if they faced a large pay-out.**

The open nomination race was won by George Lort-Stokes' *White Light* ridden by Tommy Griffiths.

A fortnight later, when *White Light* scored at the Monmouthshire Hunt steeplechases at Castle Farm, it was David Thomas who was in the saddle.

This gentleman rider and farmer from Pyle near Bridgend might well have won the Grand National on *Pencoed* but for a fall two fences from the finish when apparently going really well.

However, his finest moment was to come in 1926 when he rode his own horse *Miss Balscadden* to a head victory over the favourite *Postino* in the Welsh Grand National at Cardiff's Ely racecourse.

Mr Thomas later sold *Miss Balscadden* to Sir David Llewellyn for £1,000 and in 1928, when ridden by Barry's George Bowden, she pulled off the Welsh Grand National double after starting a rank 20-1 outsider.

Another winner at the Glamorgan in 1925 was *Barnstormer,* whose owner/rider Ralph Elliot Morel, the shipowner from Dinas Powis, at a dinner that evening asked that the cup he had won be presented to his groom, Edgar Williams who had been responsible for the care of *Barnstormer* the previous four years.

One rider who notched up a double at the Glamorgan was Mr F G Ward Jackson with *Polly* and *Concilliation*.

The Lord Tredegar Hunt point-to-point steeplechase meeting was held at Coedkernew between Cardiff and Newport and special buses were laid on from both areas.

One of the first vehicles to arrive on the course was an old style hunting coach drawn by a team of four horses and heralded with a coach horn.

There were more than the usual incidents of fraud, which was not really surprising with all five races going to the favourites. Those unlucky racegoers who had been duped vented their wrath at the bookmakers' stands.

Among the riders at this meeting were the Earl of Carlisle and Mr JC Clay, captain of the Glamorgan County Cricket Club and a great supporter of horse racing.

The closest finish of the day at the Pentyrch Hunt steeplechases, where Mr CC Williams won the members' race on *Dolly Grey*, came in the ponies' race in which *Ocean Wave* beat *Trilby* by a head.

The members' heavyweight race went to Phillip Jones' *Jack* ridden by Frank Raymond. Mr CC Bill Williams, of Llanrumney Hall in Cardiff which was years later turned into a pub, was awarded the Military Cross in the First World War and as well as being a good horseman was also a fine shot.

His favourite horse was *Billy,* which he rode in point-to-points.

*Adapted from Brian Lee's out-of-print book The Races Came Off – The Story of Point-To-Point Racing in south and west Wales*.

# EVAN'S ACROSS THE CARD DOUBLE

**THE Evan Williams' bandwagon rolls on and on!**

Last Thursday, the 'Welsh Wizard' had just two horses running, one at Wincanton and the other at Leicester and both of them won.

First off the mark was *Blandfords Gunner*, a six-year-old bay gelding owned by Kevin and Anne Glastonbury which won the Lubenham Novices' Limited Handicap Chase at Leicester under Adam Wedge.

The six-year-old bay gelding, which went off at odds of 7-2, beat the favourite *Moscow Me* by one-and-a-quarter lengths. Mr Glastonbury, a former international athlete, told me he thought a lot about this horse quite recently and I am pleased that it has lived up to his expectations.

Later in the day at Wincanton, recent Chepstow winner *Capilla*, owned by the Vale's Mrs Janet Davies, landed the Belikedan Daniel Rhodes Memorial Amateur Rider's Handicap Chase over two miles and four furlongs.

Partnered by Connor Or, the seven-year-old grey gelding, which was made the 7-4 favourite, came home five lengths ahead of *Saint Breiz* to give Evan another day to remember.

**BRIAN LEE**

# Law firm sponsors the Blues women

***ABOVE: Cardiff Blues vice-captain Rhiannon Parker with her teammate Kim Jones in their new CJCH Solicitors-sponsored training kit.***

**A LAW firm in Bridgend has stepped in to provide backing for Cardiff Blues women's rugby team.**

CJCH Solicitors has provided new wet weather training kit for the 35-woman squad as part of a sponsorship package.

"This is a tremendous help to us as a club," said head coach Stuart Clarke. "The women's game is growing fast in terms of skill levels and popularity, but we don't have the kind of money that exists in the men's game. That's why support like this is so vital."

# ATHLETIC TAKE BARRY DERBY DAY HONOURS

**ATHLETIC continued their good form against an experienced FC Barry team.**

In swamp-like conditions and with a howling wind both teams played good football given the conditions.

Early exchanges were pretty even but Athletic's young side eventually became too strong for their opposition.

The breakthrough came when Dan Morgan cut in from the left wing to strike a 20 yard shot into the top corner of the FC Barry net.

With centre back's Eddie Roe and Tom Dyball dominating the defensive area, and keeper Nathan Gratton providing reassurance behind them the Athletic back line were rarely troubled from this point on.

Linford Harris grabbed Athletic's second with a neat finish and Morgan then scored his second of the game.

Only minutes later Morgan completed his hat-trick when he headed a 40 yard cross field pass from Eddie Roe back across the keeper from 18 yards. A top quality hat-trick that delighted the Athletic supporters on the sidelines.

There was then further cause for the Athletic sidelines to be jumping for joy when Ben Graham produced a moment of magic, dancing through three defenders and bending an unstoppable shot into the top corner.

With only minutes left Harris muscled his way through the defence to get his second of the game and Graham sealed things off with another worldie! A 20 yard drive flew in off the underside of the bar to end the game 7-0. Huge thanks to FC Barry, whose attitude was fantastic throughout.

VFC Barry 0 Barry Athletic 7

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# Pencoed Firsts get plenty of cards (but not Christmas type!)

| | |
|---|---|
| Pencoed | 3 |
| Skewen | 31 |

**THE final scoreline in this match did not reflect the efforts of a depleted Pencoed side in somewhat extraordinary circumstances against league leaders Skewen at Tennant Park.**

The home side, with the elements in their favour, enjoyed the best of the early match territory and pressed deep in the Pencoed 22. However, good defence from the red, white and blues kept Skewen at bay, with young back row forward Rhys Bargery prominent in the Pencoed effort.

The Pencoed scrum, which has looked particularly strong in recent weeks, provided the platform for Pencoed to clear their lines to halfway, before the home side returned to the attack and unfortunately, a misunderstanding in the Pencoed defensive alignment presented home outside half Anthony Buselli with the space to go over at the posts before adding the extras.

Pencoed then threatened with good combined play down the right hand touchline from wing Rhys Clarke and full back Tom Cross which swept play to the home line, but Pencoed were unable to gain a foothold in the home 22.

Skewen then took play to the Pencoed 22, going through multiple phases, but could not break down the Pencoed defence, Buselli eventually deciding to take the three points on offer with a short range drop goal.

A well-judged 30-metre penalty across the breeze from Pencoed outside half Adam Williams opened his side's account and this signalled a period of Pencoed pressure, a 20-metre rolling maul taking play into the home 22.

Pencoed were unable to turn this into points however.

Approaching the interval and with the match evenly poised, to the bewilderment of the Pencoed support their team suffered the loss of three players in as many minutes for technical offences.

The opening minute of the second half saw a fourth Pencoed player sent to the sideline, the game now effectively over as a contest.

Skewen capitalized immediately on their numerical advantage with a pushover try and conversion. To their great credit, a depleted Pencoed side then proceeded to do remarkably well, especially at the scrummage with their reduced pack number taking a home put in against the head!

Pencoed, however, were now left with no recognized line out jumpers, and their problems were compounded with the loss of flanker Bargery following a fine cover tackle which aggravated a previous problem.

Pencoed were defending heroically against the odds, number eight Gareth Prentice putting in two crunching tackles in succession metres out to save his side.

For Pencoed in the circumstances the second half could only be one of containment and this they did admirably until eventually conceding two late converted tries, Gareth Prentice chosen as Pencoed supporters' man of the match.

Despite the match scoreline, Pencoed can take a certain confidence from this performance, holding their own with the table toppers until reduced in number. The manner of defeat for the players, coaches, and supporters not easy to digest with the rather insensitive appointment of a local match official.

One wonders what world-renowned international referee Mr Clive Norling, who was present at the match, made of it all ?

On Saturday, Pencoed host North Wales visitors Caernarfon in the Swalec Plate competition at the Recreation Ground at 2pm.

**TR**

# Unlucky 'tack malfunction' allows favourite to romp home

**by BRIAN LEE**

**THEY say one man's misfortune is another man's good fortune. But at Sandown last Friday it was a case of one man's misfortune was another *woman's* good fortune.**

Llanharan's Tom David riding the Ben Pauling trained *Silvergrove* in the Coldunell Amateur Riders' Handicap Chase jumped the last in front and was on his way to what appeared to be certain victory when, owing to what was described as a 'tack malfunction', his saddle slipped causing him to exit via the side door!

This left the favourite *Conas Taoi*, ridden by Katie Walsh, to romp home a 16 lengths winner.

*Conas Taoi*, who was winning for the third time on the trot, is trained by Bridgend's Paul Morgan.

Tom had worked hard coaxing his mount around the famed Sandown Park course and Pauling was quick in the defence of his rider.

He said: "You can clearly see the saddle go - it was a real shame.Tom put his weight back onto his left foot and you can see the saddlegive way. When he put his weight back on to his other side, he had no chance of staying on.

"I'm not blaming Tom in any way. Therewas nothing he could have done. I hope any grumbling punters recognise this."

It wasn't Pauling's day as earlier he had watched his *Malibu Sun* just touched off by *Vision De Champs* in a photo finish.

# Llantwit Major under-10s in keen contest against Barry

**SUNDAY saw Llantwit under 10s face Barry.**

Fourteen players were available. They were Marcus Hanmer, Alfie Jefferis, Dafydd Morgan, Brandon Harris, Thomas George, Tom Hamlett, Lewys Ingram, Braydan Griffiths, Carwyn John, Corey Cox, Kelyn Joseph, Rhys Hoggarth, Tom Jones and Thomas Lamerton.

Due to the size of Barry squad the coaches decided to play eight-a-side. We used a Barry player in both matches to make up the numbers.

Team One players were Alfie, Marcus, Dafydd, Brandon, Tom H, Lewys,Thomas G and Reuben (Barry player). The boys played some excellent rugby and won their match 11-2. Try scorers were Alfie, Marcus (3), Dafydd (3), Thomas G and Reuben(3).

Team Two players were Carwyn, Braydan, Corey, Kelyn, Rhys, Tom J and Thomas L.

The boys got off to a slow start and at half time they were losing 4 -0. We didn't realise until players lined up after half time that had Barry played with 9 players against our 8 in the first half.

The boys game back on the pitch with determination. This resulted in some excellent tries being scored. The final score was Barry 6 Llantwit 5 try scorers were Thomas L, Carwyn,

Kelyn and Braydan (2). Well done to all players you played some excellent rugby keep it up.

**MG**

# Agony for Pyle as they suffer narrow one-point defeat

**Pyle narrowly lost this game on a cold windy day at Brynglas Fields.**

The visitors were first on the score sheet with a well worked try in the corner.

Bryncoch then got on the score sheet again with a chip through and with a good follow up they scored a converted try.

It was Pyle pressure that saw the forwards surging up field and Gareth Cox went over for a try, converted by Joe Galafant.

Pyle's discipline let them down and they saw a player sent to the sin bin.

The visitors took advantage of this, and some missed tackles, and Bryncoch scored another converted try on halftime.

Bryncoch started the second half with a try. Pyle were now showing that they can play good rugby with a try by Dale Wood, converted by Galafant.

Pyle were now down to 14 men as a player received his second yellow card. Pyle were on the receiving end of another yellow card, but made ground upfield for centre Josh Tame to go over for a converted try.

With the final whistle fast approaching, Pyle scored a try by Scott Johnston converted by Galafant. Final score 28-29.

Pyle next game is Abercarn in the Sawlec Bowl.

**MB**

# Phoenix press league leaders but just lose out in Cup match-up

| | |
|---|---|
| Pencoed Phoenix | 14 |
| Caernarfon Ladies | 27 |

**THE Premiership league leaders Caernarfon ran out deserved winners of this National Cup match at the Recreation Ground.**

**The North Wales side were swiftly out of the blocks and Welsh international Jenny Davies crossed wide out in the opening minutes.**

**The visitors soon increased their lead with a superb solo effort from Lauren Hassett, the centre evading the grasp of a couple of Phoenix tacklers in her own 22 before racing 80 metres to score, and the home side found themselves 10 points down in as many minutes.**

**Combined play from Nerys Lloyd, Rhianydd Morgan, and Natalie O'Shea then took play into the visitors' half and Phoenix worked Zoe Reeves away. The left wing was brought down deep in the visitors' 22, before sister Lowri Reeves crashed over in the corner, but unfortunately for Phoenix, her effort was ruled out.**

**Phoenix continued on the attack and despite constant pressure on the Caernarfon line could not break down a determined defence.**

**Caernarfon then, somewhat against the run of play, got their third try from Teleri Davies on the counter.**

**Phoenix were perhaps unfortunate to trail by 15 points at this juncture. Stephanie Edmunds then did well to catch the visitors' full back in possession in her own 22.**

**Phoenix camped in the red zone until the interval, but despite determined efforts from O'Shea and Hannah Seward. the visitors kept their line intact.**

**Full back Seward put Phoenix on the attack with a mazy counter attacking run before driving play from Lowri Reeves set up the platform for the opening Phoenix try, scrum half Amy Stevens taking her chance to score under the posts, with Seward adding the extras.**

**With Phoenix returning to the attack following a kick from Morgan, the ball broke for the dangerous Hassett and for the second time in the match the centre raced away from her own 22 to strike a killer blow with a try under the posts. Iona Evans converted and Caernarfon led 7-22.**

**Phoenix to their credit fought back immediately, skipper Katie Murphy and Morgan handling before a kick and chase from Lloyd paid dividends, the centre following up to claim the touchdown under the posts, before adding the conversion.**

**At 14-22, unfortunately for Phoenix, the visitors were to have the final say with a try from their New Zealand number 8, surprisingly named Olwen Jones!**

**For Phoenix, Amy Stevens was chosen as best forward for her contribution at No 8 with Rhianydd Morgan as best back.**

**For Caernarfon, Olwen Jones was chosen as best forward with Jenny Davies as best back, all the players picked out by their opposition.**

***On Sunday Phoenix host Ynysddu in a National League Division One match.***

**TR**

*ABOVE: Rhianydd Morgan makes a tackle for Pencoed. (All photos by Julie Hancock).*

*Hannah Seward kicks for goal.*

*ABOVE: Phoenix captain Katie Murphy makes ground.*

# Paul's Lingfield winner on Capilla

**PAUL Moloney, stable jockey to Llancarfan trainer Evan Williams, booted home another winner for his boss when easily landing the two-mile handicap chase on seven-year-old *Capilla* at Lingfield Park on Tuesday.**

*Capilla*, the 6-4 favourite, won by 25 lengths from *Lamb's Cross* to keep up the remarkable sequence of wins trainer and rider have enjoyed this last month or so. *Capilla* was the 'Welsh Wizard's' only runner at the meeting.

In sadder news, Paul, who has been riding like a man inspired, having ridden 45 winners this season, most of them for his boss, fell on Wednesday at Ludlow at the first fence on *Kudu Country* in a handicap, which has resulted in him breaking a leg below the knee.

Williams said: "I'm absolutely gutted for him."

**BRIAN LEE**

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# Slip-ups cost Cowbridge RFC dear at Taffs Well

**LAST Saturday, Cowbridge First XV travelled north to take on unbeaten Taffs Well, while Cowbridge Youth entertained unbeaten Glynneath in the Welsh Cup.**

At Taffs Well, the home team edged the opening exchanges before, on the 17-minute mark, a quick penalty on Taffs Well 22 was moved left, their No 6 went through a gap in the away defence to pass to their very big left wing (6' 5") who handed off two Cowbridge tacklers to score a converted try.

Just three minutes later, from a scrum, the ball was moved right before the Taffs Well No 13 brought the ball back on the inside for their second row to crash through under the posts. Their full back again added the extras.

Cowbridge were holding up well in the scrums against a pack that shoved all before it off the ball and on 25 minutes a dropped pass by Taffs Well saw wing Rhys Allin kick though and then centre Will Williams take up the chase, but a combination his speed and the bounce of the ball thwarted a try.

On 30 minutes, Taffs Well's second row was lucky to receive only a verbal warning for a high tackle on scrum half Richie Howson and that same player prevented a Taffs Well score down the left wing with an interception.

In the final minutes, great defence by Allin and No 8 Matt Wright held out Taffs Well's prop.

Then, with a penalty to Cowbridge for crossing likely, the referee instead awarded it to Taffs Well and a quick tap and go put their right wing over in the corner with the last play.

Half time 19-0, but credit to the front row of Dai Popham, Jon Phillips and Ben Worrell with Alex Lewis doing a great job in the line out.

In the second half, after 10 minutes of even play, a Cowbridge pass went astray and the ball was kicked through for the right wing to score a converted try.

On 14 minutes outside half Alex Guard charged down a kick which ended in his hands. His burst for the line was stopped just metres short. As play stopped, the Taffs Well substitute flanker was lucky to only get a yellow card for throwing a punch.

From the penalty, the ball went right, a ruck formed and Howson picked up and burst through two tackles to score a try that full back Ben Wright converted.

Taffs Well did score an excellent try when their influential inside centre delayed his pass to their right wing (playing now at outside half) to take it on the burst and jink around two defenders for a converted try.

With five minutes to go, Cowbridge moved the ball left and centre Williams made no mistake, rounding the defence for a try that Wright again converted. Final score 33-14.

Taffs Well were the better team but they acknowledged the Cowbridge effort, the pack had been strong in the set and physical in the loose. The backs weren't quite their usual selves, but it was really the two soft tries either side of half time that distorted the score line.

At home, the Youth team secured a fantastic win, toppling unbeaten Glynneath. It was three points all at half time with outside half Ash Thomas kicking the points.

In the second half, Cowbridge scored two excellent tries through number 8 Dan Holder and the back row forward Llwyd Elms. Glynneath added two further penalties to make it a final score of 13-9.

This was a superb team effort and now the Youth look forward to the quarter finals. Their reward is a home tie on February 20 against Crymych.

This Saturday, the First XV take on Division 3 West high flyers Milford Haven in the Swalec Bowl in what is sure to be a tough encounter. The Youth are also at home to Aberdare. All support would be very welcome and much needed.

Finally, we wish to thank The GEM for its continued coverage and to wish all readers a very happy Christmas.

**RK/RV/GT**

# At a wet and windy Llandow circuit, kart club crowns champions

**LLANDOW Kart Club concluded its 2015 season on a typically wet and windy November weekend, with champions being crowned in all classes.**

Although not competing for silverware, the Bambino class continued to pave the way for those that were, with Ryan Smith gaining six seconds on his lap times, battling the gusty wind and damp conditions like a pro.

One of the club's Bambino graduates, Nathan Browning, was among the IAME Cadet runners but, given his lack of experience, unsurprisingly had to give best to Thomas Nippers and Matthew Rees on the day. Nippers came out on top in three of the weekend's four races, enough to see him crowned as 2015 champion.

There was more competition in the Cadet Honda class, where Axel Laflamme and Ben Watson shared the victories between them. Although Watson emerged as the winner in the day's final, it was Laflamme who took the overall title ahead of Austin Maddocks, who completed the podium at the final round.

Watson's efforts were enough to not only secure third in the points table, but also walk away with driver of the day honours, while Ellis Puleio – who finished sixth in class behind Luke Evans and Jenson Davis, claimed the best rookie nomination.

Spurred on by his maiden success the previous month, Finley Green showed that taking top spot in Junior Honda was no fluke as he repeated the feat ahead of familiar sparring partners Ben Cutler and Alex Wilkins. Cutler and Green had shared the heat wins between them prior to the final and it was the former who walked off with the season-long silverware, with Wilkins finishing second overall.

Joe Phillips started the Junior TKM weekend looking like the driver to beat as he claimed victory in each of the first two heats, and finished third as Sam Johns came out on top in race three.

Come the final, however, Louis Beaven emerged from the shadows to claim both victory and the overall class title, edging Johns into second in both cases. Lucas Sullivan claimed third on the road, as the top three in the final mirrored that in the championship standings.

The Senior Honda podium also replicated the final points table, with Kristian Prosser adding the club title to his Welsh crown ahead of a hard-working Monty Gorringe and Patrick Hill. The increasingly close-fought class saw the heats split between three drivers, however, with Prosser being joined in top spot by Tom Ford and Daniel Watkins, while veteran Paul Saunders kept the youngsters honest with a brace of second places.

Morgan Rose underlined his coronation as Senior Rotax champion by taking three of the four race wins on offer at the final round, including the main event of the day, where he pulled out a six-second advantage over Rob Ellis, with Dilip Singh completing the podium. Ellis had earlier denied Rose a clean sweep as the pair took the chequered flag split by just 0.122secs in the third heat. The absent Sam Morgan completed the championship top three.

With the 'summer' championship done and dusted, the season's racing at South Wales Karting Centre will conclude with the traditional Celtic Challenge on Sunday, December 6.

**RESULTS**

*BAMBINO - 1. Ryan Smith (Top Kart); CADET HONDA - 1. Ben Watson (Project One), 2. Axel Laflamme (Zip), 3. Austin Maddocks (Project One). Champion: Axel Laflamme (Zip). CADET IAME - 1. Thomas Nippers (Zip), 2. Matthew Rees (Synergy), 3. Nathan Browning (Zip). Champion: Thomas Nippers (Zip).*

*JUNIOR HONDA - 1. Finley Green (Biz), 2. Ben Cutler (7Kart), 3. Alex Wilkins (7Kart). Champion: Ben Cutler (7Kart). JUNIOR TKM - 1. Louis Beaven (Tonykart), 2. Sam Johns (Jade), 3. Lucas Sullivan (Tonykart). Champion: Louis Beaven (Tonykart). SENIOR HONDA - 1. Kristian Prosser (7Kart), 2. Monty Gorringe (7Kart), 3. Patrick Hill (Wright). Champion: Kristian Prosser (7Kart).*

*SENIOR ROTAX - 1. Morgan Rose (Tonykart), 2. Rob Ellis (Kosmic), 3. Dilip Singh (CRG). Champion: Morgan Rose (Tonykart). BEST NOVICE: Ellis Puleio (Cadet Honda); DRIVER OF THE DAY: Ben Watson (Cadet Honda).*

**CL**

# COWBRIDGE DARTS LEAGUE ROUND-UP

**ON Tuesday December 1, a full programme of league matches (league week 8) was played.**

With the Edmondes A beating the Edmondes B 6-3 and Llanharry defeating the Old Post Ladies 9-0, the Edmondes B lead at the top of the table has been reduced to two point.

The Farmers B (H&H) playing their first home game at the Farmers Arms lost 4-5 to the Highwayman Inn while the Six Bells Inn beat the Edmondes C 6-3.

In this match David Woods (Six Bells Inn) set a new three dart highest out with 117; The Farmers Arms did not have a game.

*Present league standings, after eight weeks, are: Edmondes B (42 points), Llanharry (40), Highwayman Inn (37), Edmondes C and Six Bells Inn (34), Edmondes A (33), Farmers Arms (32), Farmers B (H&H) (25) and Old Post Ladies (11).*

Next week, Tuesday December 15, all teams will be playing in the first rounds of the GWC. Since this is the last Tuesday of darts before the Christmas and New Year break, all matches will be played at the Edmondes Arms.

*All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome. For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.*

**PJT**